



Appendices

**Summary of Events and Accomplishments in the History of Paint Creek Trail  
and the Paint Creek Trailways Commission,  
1973 - 2008**

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**1973**

Survey of Oakland Township residents shows strong support for maintaining elements of the rural atmosphere including hiking, bridle trails & bicycle paths. Trail plans are incorporated in adapted Oakland Township Master Land Use Plan.

Rochester Area Bikeway Committee formed.

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**1974**

Avon Township voters approve millage for bike path construction.

Meeting of representatives from six local communities plus county and state agencies review potential for bike paths and trails in the Rochester area.

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**1976**

Clinton River Watershed Council's Hike-In/Canoe-In stimulates interest in Penn Central Right of Way acquisition.

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**1977**

Second major meeting of representatives of local communities, county and state agencies.

Oakland County applies for Department of Interior grant for acquisition of Penn Central Right of Way. Penn Central is in bankruptcy proceedings, and not in a position to sell the property.

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**1978**

Oakland Township Public Services survey. Responses show strong support for bike paths and non-motorized trails.

City of Rochester proceeds with construction of bike path in Municipal Park and signing of bikeways on city streets.

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**1979**

Discussions with Oakland County Road Commission concludes that installation of a bike path along Orion Road is not feasible.

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## 1980

Avon Township voters approve bond issue to finance further construction of bike paths.

Penn Central informs local communities that they are now ready, indeed anxious to sell right of way.

Third major meeting of local, county and state representatives. Strategies for seeking acquisition funds are discussed, including:

- MDOT Act 295 (delinquent taxes from railroad funds) or Act 51 non-motorized transportation funds.
  - Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant and matching local funds.
  - Michigan Land Trust Fund grant and matching local funds.
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## 1981

Public meetings provide input while purchase negotiations are conducted with Penn Central.

Oakland Township adopts Park Plan which include acquisition of the Penn Central Right of Way as a near-term objective.

Four municipalities establish the Paint Creek Trailways Commission with an intergovernmental agreement under the provisions of the Michigan Urban Cooperative Act (P.A. 7, 1967): Avon Township (now Rochester Hills), Rochester, Oakland Township and Orion Township.

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## 1982

“Responses to Questions Regarding Proposed Yates Cider Mill to Lake Orion Non motorized Trail” report produced, based on concerns and issues voiced at the meetings and interviews with managers of established trails throughout the nation.

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## 1983

10.5 miles purchased out of the 12 miles from Macomb County line to Lake Orion by the Paint Creek Trailways Commission. Portion omitted in downtown Rochester because of high price and possibility of alternate routes. Cost: \$450,000 (50% prorated local share and 50% Michigan Land Trust Funds).

Uniform Trailways Ordinance developed.

Bridgework – decks, railings, trestle removal (50% state funds).

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## 1984

Planning Assistance from landscape architecture students at Lawrence Technological University, Southfield, Michigan.

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**1986**

Trailways Plan receives the annual Honor Award of the Michigan Society of Planning Officials (M.S.P.O.).

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**1987**

Oakland County Planning Division prepares countywide Trails System Analysis of Potential.

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**1988**

Erosion control and Stream access (50% Inland Fisheries Grant): Four individual projects one in each member community along Paint Creek.

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**1989**

Paint Creek Trailways guide map and brochure developed for public distribution.

William Johnson and Associates selected by Trailways Commission for design of bike path surfacing. Public hearing held to receive input on path design. Gerlach Landscaping selected as surfacing contractor.

The Trailways Commission and the City of Rochester Hills approved resolution to convey a “portion of the Paint Creek Trailways immediately adjacent or contained within Bloomer Unit of the Rochester-Utica Recreation Area” to the State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources.

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**1990**

Trailways Commission receives Certificate of Merit in the United States Department of the Interior’s “Take Pride America” awards program.

Access controls installed – gates, bollards, and boulders.

Construction of Trail surfacing begins. The Paint Creek Trail is now in operation and open for the public and receives heavy use.

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**1991**

Paint Creek Trailways Surfacing complete.

Commission hires part-time Trailways Coordinator to handle daily administrative duties.

Trailways Commission office located at the Oakland Township Hall.

Oakland County Division of Planning assists Trail Commission in the development of preliminary signage plan

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## Appendix - 1

Oakland County Sheriff's Department Mounted Division begins a twenty-week Trail patrol, June through October.

Inland Fisheries Grant awarded to Paint Creek Trailways Commission for Phase II of erosion control project in Oakland Township.

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### **1992**

Trailways Merchandising program initiated to raise funds for Trailways development programs, including T-shirts, sweatshirts and patches.

Trailways selected as the finish area for the initial Michigander bike tour, a cross-state bicycle ride sponsored by the Detroit Free Press and the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy to promote Michigan rail-trails.

Paint Creek Trailways Commission receives "Enjoy Outdoors America" Award from the United States Department of the Interior, Washington D.C., and is presented with the award on National Trails Day in October. (Only six trails were recognized nationwide).

Five year Master Plan revised and approved, allowing the Commission to make a grant application to the State of Michigan for their signage project.

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### **1993**

Trailways Commission awarded \$50,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund/Recreation Improvement Fund grant for Trailways signage project.

Initiated Trailways Safety Program – bicycle bells are sold at cost to Trailways users to promote safety for all Trail users.

Friends of the Paint Creek Trailways launched by the Trailways Commission – a non-profit volunteer organization that supports events and activities on the Trail.

Formal License agreement with the Paint Creek Cider Mill: allows for parking privileges for Trailways users and cider mill buildings to remain on Trailways property.

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### **1994**

License Agreement with the City of Rochester for sewer interceptor near Bloomer Park.

Land donated by developer to the City of Rochester Hills to provide parking lot at Tienken Road Crossing.

Completed Phase II of Inland Fisheries Grant to control erosion along Paint Creek between Gallagher and Silver Bell Road.

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Appendix - 1

Boy Scout project at Gunn Road crossing (Oakland Township) constructs retaining wall and bicycle ramp to pedestrian access.

Oakland County Sheriffs Department's Mounted Division increases Trail patrol program to a twenty-eight week program, from May through October.

Commission Sponsors University of Michigan, School of Natural Resources master thesis project, Enhancements of the Paint Creek Trail, including a partial natural feature inventory and linkage study.

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### **1995**

Blue bird boxes installed along Trail in Rochester Hills and Oakland Township, as part of Eagle Scout project for Troop 193.

Commission approves License Agreement between Commission and Michigan Consolidated Gas allowing a crossing of the Trail right-of-way in Section 20 of Oakland Township.

Commission approves License Agreement between Commission and Consumers Power, allowing crossing of the Trail right-of-way in Section 20 of Oakland Township.

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### **1996**

Commission approves contract with Oakland County Sheriff Mounted Division for patrol of the Trail for sixth consecutive year.

Commission meets with Mayor Ken Snell; among discussion topics included replacement of bridge across Bloomer Park.

Received final edition of document by Ned Morse, A GIS Development Project for Paint Creek Trail: a multi-layer GIS Database and Determination of Computer Analysis Tools for Managing a Rail-to-Trails and Recreation Corridor.

Trail Commission approves License Agreement with the City of Rochester for crossing of the Sheldon Road extension.

Nearly 600 participants in the fifth annual Michigander cross-state bicycle tour ride the Trail from Clarkston/Kern Road to Rochester on their way to the finish line at Metro Beach.

Special Commission meeting arranged to review the right-of-way involved in the sanitary sewer project proposed by Rochester Hills.

Commission requests bids for the resurfacing of the Trailways. Two bids are received, but the Commission rejects both, because totals are far in excess of anticipated amounts.

Trail Coordinator holds discussions with Lake Orion Village Manager on extending the Paint Creek Trail into Lake Orion.

Commission addresses citizen concerns about Tienken Road crossing.

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## Appendix - 1

Commission approves license agreement between Commission and Paint Creek Cider Mill for Cider Mill use of Trailways Commission property.

Erosion control projects at Rochester Municipal Park and Kern Clarkston Road completed with grant administered by Clinton River Watershed Council.

Commission approved License Agreement between Commission and Rochester Hills for installation of the sanitary sewer within the right-of-way between Dutton and Tienken Roads.

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### 1997

Commission approves Resolution to Support the Acquisition of the Polly Ann Rail Corridor for Use as a Recreational Trail.

Commissioner Peggy Johnson is awarded the Michigan Recreation & Parks Association's Voluntary Service Award at the Annual State Conference. She is later awarded the National Recreation & Parks Association's National Voluntary Service Award in Salt Lake City, Idaho.

Special Commission meeting held to review the three parcels involved in the land swap with Mr. Nicholson, owner of the Paint Creek Cider Mill and Restaurant.

William T. Stark assumes duties as part-time Trailways Coordinator, replacing Linda Gorecki, who resigns to become full-time Park Manager in Oakland Township.

National Trails Day (June 7) Friends of Paint Creek Trail organize planting project at the Gunn Road crossing.

Commission approves temporary License Agreement with Dillman & Upton Lumber Company for their use of the Trailways Commission property in Rochester. The agreement will last only until the final agreement is completed, expected 3-20-01. The temporary agreement includes annual rental payment to the Commission of \$3,600.

Commission approves motion to support concept of linking the Trail to Bald Mountain State Recreational Area.

Commission holds Public Hearing to receive comments on the land swap between the Trail Commission and Mr. Nicholson.

Commission approves motion recognizing the City of Rochester for completion of the Paint Creek Walkway.

Michigan State University School of Urban Planning Masters student Robert Balmes presents Greenways: Improving the Quality of life in Oakland County, Michigan to Commission.

## 1998

Bike Patrol program implemented. Program runs from May 1 – October 31.

Revision of Recreation Master Plan results in 1999-2003 version. Master Plan revised by Linda Gorecki, former Trailways Coordinator.

Paint Creek Trail brochure revised

Grand Trunk Railroad abandonment affecting Rochester and Rochester Hills is announced. Peggy Johnson, founding member of the Paint Creek Trailways Commission, retires

Trailways Commission executes license agreement with Village Green Apartments for installation of Sanitary Sewer.

Resolution: The Paint Creek Trailways Commission supports the conversion of the Grand Trunk Railroad through Rochester Hills to a recreation trail.

Paint Creek Trailways Commission website first introduced through the Orion Township Public Library ([www.orion.lib.mi.us/pctc](http://www.orion.lib.mi.us/pctc)).

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## 1999

Trailways Commission passes Resolution in support of the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission's grant application for a 90-acre park.

Trailways Commission passes Resolution in support of the development of trails in Bald Mountain Recreation Area that would provide links to Paint Creek Trail, Orion Township safety paths, and Oakland Township bike paths.

Commission contracts with Applied Science & Technology, Inc. to develop a Prairie Management Plan.

Commission sends letter to Governor John Engler proclaiming interest in the Millennium Legacy Trail program.

National Trails Day, June 5- Erosion projects in Oakland Township and a resurfacing project in Orion Township highlight the day's events.

Home Depot, Rochester Hills, offers to partner with the Trailways Commission for "Team Depot" community projects.

Trailways Commission invited to send a representative to the National Millennium Legacy Trail Awards in Washington, D.C. on behalf of the Trailways Commission and the Southeast Michigan Greenways.

Certificate of appreciation given to retired Commissioner Ann Marie Boyce, for her many years of outstanding service to the Paint Creek Trailways Commission.

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## **2000**

Clinton Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited given permission to place “Catch and Release” signs on the Trail, to help improve natural Brown Trout fishery.

Commission agrees to License Fee increases.

Phase Two of Prairie Management plan introduced.

Temporary Permit issued to United Way for walkathon.

Team Depot completes bridge re-railing project in Rochester Hills at Tienken Road.

National Trails Day in June – Paint Creek Trail officially accepts the Michigan Millennium Legacy Trail designation on behalf of Southeast Michigan Greenways.

Team Depot builds housing for Millennium Legacy Trail marker sign to be placed in Orion Township.

Temporary Permit issued to the Michigan Mountain Biking Association for the “Back Road Boogie”

Trailways Commission passes Resolution in support of the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission’s grant application for improvements at Bear Creek Park.

Trailways Commission announces new e-mail address: [paintcreektrail@aol.com](mailto:paintcreektrail@aol.com).

Two new stairways constructed on Trail in Oakland Township.

Grand Truck Railroad abandonment creates trail affectionately known as the “Clinton River Trail”

Trailways Commission receives grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs for \$3,500 to fund an Art Project Strategic Plan.

Trailways Commission agrees to partially fund the Rudd’s Mill Historic Marker at Clarkton/Kern Roads.

Trailways Commission passes Resolution in support of Orion Township’s grant application for bike path.

Temporary Permit issued to the Furniture Resource Center for a walkathon.

Trailways Commission announces new website address: [www.paintcreektrail.bizland.com](http://www.paintcreektrail.bizland.com).

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## **2001**

Trailways Commission hires Get Real! Communications to facilitate strategic planning Session regarding Millennium Legacy Trail art project.

## Appendix - 1

January 10 – The Paint Creek Trailways Commission receives a Community Service Award from the Michigan Recreation & Park Association for “Outstanding Commitment and Service to their Community”.

Trail brochure revised.

Trailways Commission approvals license agreement with Flagstar Bank in Goodison for a sewer line. Agrees to waive license fee in return for access to a water line for a future Trail improvement project.

Contract with Word Pictures, Inc is approved for the production of a Prairie Restoration/Art Project video.

June 2 – National Trails Day events: historic bike tour, historic site marker dedication at Rudd’s Mill, resurfacing project in Oakland Township between Silver Bell and Gallagher

Temporary Permit granted to United Way for walkathon.

Rochester Hills paves Tienken Road parking lot, which allows parking for 12 vehicles.

Trailways Commission amends Section 6, Finances (B) of the Intergovernmental Operating Agreement, in order to streamline budget process.

Temporary Permit granted to the Michigan Mountain Biking Association for the “Back Road Boogie”

Temporary Permit granted for “Meet us on the Trail”, sponsored by Rep. Michael Bishop.

Site for Prairie Restoration Art Project is chosen in Oakland Township at Gallagher Road.

Temporary Permit granted to the Furniture Resource Center for a walkathon.

Temporary Permit granted to Burning Daylight Productions for use of the Trail in a television commercial.

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## 2002

Trailways Commission amends Recreation Master Plan in anticipation for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant application.

Development at the corner of Atwater and M-24 in the Village of Lake Orion is announced, with the potential connection to the Paint Creek Trail.

Grant Application for the "Paint Creek Trail Enhancement Project" submitted to the MNRTF for two picnic sites, water, a restroom, and an erosion control project.

Resolution passed by the Paint Creek Trailways Commission "Supporting safe pedestrian crossing of Tienken Road at Paint Creek Trail"

## Appendix - 1

Orion Township completes Goldengate access project that provided a stairway and railings.

Commission passes Resolution in opposition to Senate Bill 1016, which would have allowed the "Segway" human transporter on public pathways, including the Paint Creek Trail.

Trailways Commission announces new official website, [www.paintcreektrail.org](http://www.paintcreektrail.org)

Senator Michael Bishop sponsors another "Meet Us on the Trail" event for National Trails Day, June 1, 2002.

Paint Creek Mill Race historical marker was dedicated, June 2002.

Eagle Scout candidate John Putnam completes Trail mile-marker project.

Trailways Commission experiments with "paperless packets" by utilizing email to send packet information.

Eagle Scout candidate Jeff Deans proposes and gets approved for a "Bat house project" along the Paint Creek Trail.

Trailways Commission and Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission implement Prairie Management plan with Prescribed burn at Prairie site along Trail in Oakland Township.

Paint Creek Trailways Commission is recommended for funding by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the Paint Creek Trail Enhancement Project.

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## **2003**

Trailways Commission starts process for Trail Resurfacing.

Trailways Commission creates new color brochure, utilizing photos submitted by Trail users.

Trailways Commission begins development of the 2004-2008 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan.

Trailways Coordinator Bill Stark retires from the Paint Creek Trailways Commission and is replaced by Kristen Myers.

Trailways Commission approves purchase of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to be used by the Bike Patrol.

Art Project and Prairie Restoration video dedicated on National Trails Day, June 7, at the "Meet Us on the Trail" event sponsored by Senator Michael Bishop.

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## 2004

Gift of 1/3 mile of Trail, and 1.8 acres of property from the David Goldberg and the Aspen Group, valued at \$750,000, for new Trail through "Atwater Commons" in Lake Orion; the appointment of a non-voting Commissioner, Rick Mazzenga, for the Village of Lake Orion.

8.5 miles of Trail resurfaced; Additional 400 feet of Trail developed north of Newton Street.

Approval of Credit Card Policy.

Preliminary planning of Rochester Art Project; Vice-Chairman Becker's requests for funding by PCTC, Rochester-Avon Historical Society, and DDA approved.

Resignation of Commissioners Arthur Phillips and Dan Keifer; Appointments of Maryann Whitman, Martha Olijnyk, and Paul Miller.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Service project: Painting of all bridges, bollards, and graffiti covered areas; miscellaneous "fix up" projects.

### 2005 Budget Approval

Re-hiring of William Stark as Project Manager for MNRTF Development project  
Successful National Trails Day event, sponsored by Senator Mike Bishop, on June 12, 2004.

Hiring of Peter Ferency, as Trailways Commission Bike Patroller.

Successful completion of Trail User Survey by MSU.

Grants from the Bordine Family Beautification Horticultural Fund and the Frank J. Shellenbarger Memorial Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester totaling \$5,000 to underwrite the Prairie Video update.

Approval of the Vandalism/Reward Program.

Eagle Scout Project: New brochure boxes along the Trail.

Preliminary planning of Directional Sign project, in conjunction with the City of Rochester.

Preliminary work on MNRTF Development project; new picnic sites at Tienken and Gallagher; observation deck at Foley Pond; vault toilet at Clarkston/Kern. Gift of in-kind services from Oakland County Parks Planning Staff to be "Prime Professional" for project.

Encroachment /trespassing dispute with Goodison Hills Homeowners Association  
New license agreement with ITC; revised agreement with Detroit Edison.

2 donated recycled plastic benches; one south of Dutton, one south of Gallagher.

Heavy rains in May of 2004 forced the temporary closure of the Trail; fish became new "users."

## Appendix - 1

Preliminary planning to move Commission office to the former Paint Creek Cider Mill Restaurant; owner Ray Nicholson donates establishment to the Charter Township of Oakland.

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### 2005

MSU Survey completed and results shared with the Commission in a presentation by Dr. Christine Vogt and Mr. Josh Pedersen from MSU. The objectives of the study were to understand motivations, demographics and activity patterns of Trail users and to obtain an estimation of total Trail use.

Atwater Warranty Deed transferred and recorded on 12/30/04 from the Aspen Group. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on National Trails Day, June 4, 2005.

A Recognition Policy was adopted by the Commission– Tiered System instituted to recognize both monetary and volunteer hours.

Prairie Video Grant was received from the Bordine Family Horticultural Beautification Fund and the Frank J. Shellenbarger Memorial Fund for enhancements to the video. A teaching version was produced and forwarded for review and acceptance by the local public and private schools with teaching guide.

PCTC passed a resolution in support of Oakland Township Parks and Recreation's application for acquisition of the 60-acre Stony Creek Corridor Park. The acquisition and development of this parcel will contribute to a hiking/biking route that will connect the Paint Creek Trail with the Macomb Orchard Trail. Oakland Twp Parks' application and grant for \$900,000 was approved in December, 2005.

PCTC contracted with the Sheriff's Parks Mounted Division to patrol the Trail on weekends.

Seasonal part-time bike patroller , Dave Moutrie, was hired to monitor the Trail during the peak summer season at approximately 20 hours a week for 15 weeks.

Part-time seasonal Administrative Assistant Debbie Fox was hired in late July to work 20 hours a week for 15 weeks.

Heritage Festival once again was a huge success with many new volunteers assisting with the Trail Display and merchandise sales.

PCTC partnered with Hiking Michigan for a successful National Trails Day / Meet Us in the Middle event and lunch at the Paint Creek Cider Mill. Senator Bishop's office and Lipuma's of Rochester sponsored lunch, and a Trail Founder and Financial Contributor recognition ceremony was held.

Work began on a *Friends of the Paint Creek Trail group*. It is still in development but should come together in 2006, since the database is completed. PCTC is still looking for a leader of this volunteer group.

The Goodison Hills subdivision landscaping issues behind the Flagstar bank were resolved after much discussion.

## Appendix - 1

MNRTF grant project completed. We developed and/or installed new picnic sites, vault toilet, drinking fountain and an observation deck on the Trail. PCTC expressed their gratitude to Mr. Stark for his work on these projects that enhanced the Trail for all users.

2006 PCTC Budget proposed and approved.

Approved the OCDC Goodison Water Main Extension project crossing the Trail near Gallagher and Orion Roads.

Completed and submitted a *National Recreation Trail* designation application. Many letters of support from the community and government offices included with the application. Possible benefits included technical assistance and funding opportunities.

PCT brochure redesigned for reprint and sponsorships received from several local businesses.

PCTC approved a geocaching policy.

PCTC gave an easement to the Road Commission of Oakland County for Tienken Road crossing improvements.

Paint Creek Trail received national attention in the Wall Street Journal on September 24, 2005.

One donated recycled plastic bench from the Jones Family installed north of Clarkston/Kern Roads.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Service project: Painting of all bridges, bollards, and graffiti covered areas; miscellaneous “fix-up” projects.

Long Meadow Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> Graders participated in their annual “Adopt A Trail” clean up project in May 2005.

Temporary Licenses were given to the following organizations for fundraising events: On My Own of Michigan; Rochester Community Schools Foundation; Oakland Steiner School; Romeo Schools – Stoney Creek Relay, and Oakland Township’s Curamus Terram.

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## 2006

New and revised brochure was introduced, with 5 new sponsors and an updated map. 15,000 brochures were received for distribution.

Administrative Policy #06-001, “Trailways Commission Purchasing Policy” was adopted by the Commission, which set purchasing parameters for the Coordinator and Chairman.

The Boundary Map/Survey Project began with requests for proposals. Fine tuning of the project continued throughout the year.

Planning began for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Trail art project in the City of Rochester. Work continued throughout the year.

## Appendix - 1

Approved temporary permit request for the Hometown Hustle, a Rochester Community Schools Foundation event for May 13. There were 250 participants.

Approved temporary permit request for the Rainbow Connection's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Kids on May 20.

Appointed a Bollard Redesign subcommittee to create a collapsible or replaceable bollard that could be used instead of emergency gates. Work continued throughout the year.

Negotiations continued with ITC for a License agreement covering 2 transmission lines.

Approved a temporary permit request for On my Own of Michigan, for their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual fundraiser walkathon for September 16, 2006.

The Goodison Hills/Flagstar Bank landscaping issue was finally resolved after the planting of two white swamp oak trees in May 2006.

Long Meadow Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> graders participated in their annual "Adopt a Trail" cleanup project in May 2006.

Paint Creek Trail received national attention again with a paragraph in the May 2006 Better Homes and Gardens magazine.

Heritage Festival was a great success Memorial Day weekend, with high merchandise sales and brochure distribution.

Bike Patroller David Moutrie returned for another successful season.

Oakland County Sheriff Office Mounted Patrol units also returned for a successful patrol season.

PCTC partnered with Hiking Michigan and Senator Mike Bishop for a successful National Trails Day/Experience Your Outdoors event. The PCTC received a National Recreation Trail award from the US Department of the Interior; Honorees for this year's recognition ceremony were Jo Ann Van Tassel, Lois Golden, Word Pictures, Inc, Oakland County Parks, and Oakland County Planning & Economic Development. Over 650 people attended our event.

Commission approved the 2007 Budget.

Rudd's Mill Historic Marker was reinstalled in Orion Township on June 27.

Negotiations began with the Road Commission of Oakland County for use of an easement on Dutton Road for Trail parking.

Approved a contract with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office Mounted Patrol for 500 hours of patrol services between Memorial Day and October 31, 2006.

Commission took a field trip on the Trail between Gallagher and Bridge 34 (south of Silver Bell).

Approved a temporary permit for Curamus Terram on September 23, 2006.

## Appendix - 1

Approved the hiring of CPA Ramie E. Phillips, Jr. to conduct our 2005 Financial Audit, (GASB 34 compliant).

Approved a temporary permit request for the Rochester Cycling Festival for September 2, 2006.

Commission approved the purchase of a bicycle for the Coordinator.

Held the first annual "Paint Creek Trail Virtual Bridge Walk" on Labor Day (Sept 4) with approximately 50 participants and volunteers. Route: Gallagher south to Bridge 34 and back. Participants were greeted on the "other" side of the bridge with Mackinac Fudge.

Approved a temporary permit request for an Oakland Steiner School fundraiser for October 7, 2006.

Trail repairs were completed with the help from the Village of Lake Orion for 150' of Trail near Converse Ct, south of Atwater.

Discussions began regarding the quality of the surfacing materials in the Atwater section of Trail.

New signs were made and installed for the Atwater parking lot and the Atwater trailhead.

Commission received excellent press coverage throughout the year.

Commission agreed to hold National Trails Day in Lake Orion in 2007, focusing on potential connections with the Polly Ann Trail and Lake Orion business district.

Community Service Project: Bridge(s) and approaches were sanded and painted, boards were replaced.

Discussions began with adjacent subdivision Arthur's Way in Rochester Hills for a connector trail from their subdivision to the Trail south of Dutton.

Discussions began regarding revisions in 2007 to the Paint Creek Trail brochure  
Commission began setting project and operational goals for 2007.

Discussions began regarding a possible "Commissioner's Fund" that would be established for Trail beautification projects.

Commission awarded contract for Trail Boundary survey project to Nowak & Fraus of Royal Oak, Michigan. Work to begin in January 2007.

Paint Creek Trail featured in the MSU documentary DVD "Making the Connection: Rail Trails in Michigan Today" that was distributed statewide.

Trail crossing improvements at Tienken in Rochester Hills were finished with the Trail being rerouted to Kings Cove Drive. A pedestrian crossing signal is scheduled for installation.

## 2007

Discussions continued regarding a possible "Commissioner's Fund" that would be established for Trail beautification projects.

Work continued on the Rochester Art Project. This was a collaborative effort between the PCTC, Rochester DDA, Rochester Avon Historical Society, Rochester Historical Commission, and the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester (Preede Foundation).

CPA Ramie E. Phillips, Jr. conducted our 2006 Financial Audit.

Trail crossing improvements at Tienken in Rochester Hills were finished, with a new pedestrian crossing signal and landscape improvements.

Nowak & Fraus conducted the Paint Creek Trail Boundary and Survey Project, and was near completion by the end of the fiscal year.

Commission approved the purchase of a GPS Unit.

Commission began discussions on encroachment policy.

Approved temporary permit request for the Hometown Hustle, a Rochester Community Schools Foundation event for May 12. There were 250 participants.

Approved a contract with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office Mounted Patrol for 500 hours of patrol services between Memorial Day and October 31, 2007.

Long Meadow Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> graders participated in their annual "Adopt a Trail" cleanup project in May 2007. Approximately 35 children and parents participated.

Bike Patroller David Moutrie returned for another successful season.

Commission received excellent press coverage throughout the year.

Heritage Festival was a mild success on a rainy Memorial Day weekend.

PCTC partnered with Orion Township Parks, the Lake Orion DDA for a successful National Trails Day/Trails and Health: A Natural Connection event. Honorees for the 2007 recognition ceremony were Arthur Phillips, Sharon Creps, Jim Marleau, Senator Mike Bishop, and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Over 750 people attended our event.

Approved a temporary permit request for the Rainbow Connection's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Kids on June 9.

Brochure was updated and 15,000 were printed for distribution. Sponsors include Hanson's Running Shop, Paint Creek Bicycles, and the Westwynd Golf Course.

Commission approved the 2008 Budget.

## Appendix - 1

Approved a Temporary Permit Follow-Up form and program, to gain feedback from our applicants regarding their experience with the Paint Creek Trail.

Commission began discussions regarding future “webcasting” of PCTC meetings. Trail Commission received a \$10,000 grant from the DALMAC fund toward the paving of the Atwater section of Trail.

Commission began discussions on a Bench Donation Policy to regulate model, location, and other terms of donation.

Bollard Redesign Committee reviewed previous recommendations and discussed amendments to policy.

Eagle Scout candidate Bryan Walker received preliminary approval for a kiosk design and installation project along the Trail.

Commission Resolution #07-001 in support of “Connecting Michigan Statewide Trailways Vision Plan” facilitated by the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance.

Commission took a field trip on the Trail between Ludlow and Dutton.

Commission again agreed to hold National Trails Day in Lake Orion in 2008, focusing on potential connections with the Polly Ann Trail and Lake Orion business district.

Approved a temporary permit request for the Polly Ann Trail’s Rural Pearl of a Ride for July 28, 2007. Over 150 riders participated.

Approved a temporary permit request for the AdvoKate Run/Walk for August 4. Over 300 people participated.

Held the second annual “Paint Creek Trail Virtual Bridge Walk” on Labor Day (Sept 3) with approximately 200 participants and volunteers. Route: Tienken north to Dutton and back, and Tienken north to Gallagher and back. Participants were greeted on the “other” side of the bridge with Mackinac Fudge. A 600% increase in attendance from 2006.

Negotiations continued with ITC for a License agreement covering 2 transmission lines.

Approved a temporary permit request for On my Own of Michigan, for their 4<sup>rd</sup> Annual fundraiser walkathon for September 15, 2007. Over 200 people attended the event.

The Road Commission for Oakland County approved our permit request to utilize the Dutton Road Right of Way for Trail parking. This was a collaborative effort between the PCTC, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation, Road Commission, and City of Rochester Hills.

Discussions began regarding adding directional signage on the Trail.

Approved a temporary permit for Curamus Terram on September 22, 2007.

## Appendix - 1

Oakland County Trail Summit was held at the Royal Park Hotel on October 4, and the Paint Creek Trail was featured prominently.

Approved a temporary permit for the CIDER Walk, a Right-to-Life Lifespan fundraising event for October 14, 2007. Over 150 people participated.

Paved the Atwater section of Trail (1,115 feet) at a cost of \$30,863. The Lake Orion DDA and the Charter Township of Orion contributed over \$20,000 for the project.

Trail received improvements at the Clarkston/Kern crossing and parking lot, courtesy of the Road Commission for Oakland County.

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation resurfaced the Gallagher Road parking lot. Commission began reviewing the Recreational Master Plan in preparation for an update in 2008.

Approved a temporary permit request for "The Brooksie Way", a half-marathon scheduled for October 5, 2008.

Three new benches were donated to the Trail and installed at various points.

The Commission continued good fiscal management, with revenue higher than expenses.

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## 2008

The Commission discussed the Paint Creek Trail/Polly Ann Trail Gap Analysis that was commissioned by Oakland County Parks and Recreation.

The Commission approved Temporary Use Permits for the following events:

- Hometown Hustle – RCS Foundation – May 10
- Walk for Kids – Rainbow Connection – June 7
- Rural Pearl of a Ride – Polly Ann Trail – July 26
- AdvoKate Run/Walk – August 2
- CRY America Walk – August 23
- Curamus Terram – Oakland Township – September 20
- On my Own of Michigan Walkathon – September 27
- Special Olympics Walkathon – October 4, 2008
- Brooksie Way Half Marathon – October 5, 2008 (originally approved 2007)
- CIDER Walk – Right to Life Lifespan – October 18

Bollard redesign improvements were completed in Rochester, Oakland Township and Rochester Hills.

The Commission approved a request from the Oakland County Sheriff's Office – Oakland Township Substation to help purchase a law-enforcement equipped bicycle for the new OCSO Bike Patrol Program.

The Paint Creek Trail Directional Map and Brochure/Map were redesigned with the in-kind assistance from HMS Manufacturing in Troy, Michigan.

## Appendix - 1

The Commission approved the 2009 Operations and Patrol Budget, with no increase in the contributions from our voting member communities.

The Commission partnered with the Rainbow Connection, Senator Mike Bishop, and the Lake Orion DDA for a successful “Join Us on the Trail” National Trails Day event, with financial sponsorship from Meijer Corp and McLaren Health Center. Honorees for the 2008 recognition ceremony were Linda Raschke, Karen Lewis, Jeffrey Phillips, the DALMAC Fund, and Meijer Corporation. Over 700 people attended or participated in one of our events.

The Rochester Historical Art Project was completed, with the installation of 6 Historical glass panels installed in downtown Rochester, along the Downtown Rochester River Walk.

Bike Patroller David Moutrie and the OCSO Mounted Patrol returned for another successful patrol season.

The Commission approved a request from Oakland County Parks and Recreation to sponsor the 2008 Oak Routes Trail Network Map.

The Commission approved a request for a letter of support from Jake Isley, Oakland University Student, to support the Oakland University Trail Network Concept.

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation, with the assistance of an Eagle Scout, installed a new Deer Enclosure on Trail ROW north of Silver Bell.

The 2007 Audit was completed by Ramie Phillips, CPA

The Commission took a “field trip” to Trail property in southeast Rochester, near Letica Drive, and began discussions on potential improvements to both parcels.

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation commissioned a moth survey/count along the Trail, for an ecological study.

Six new recycled plastic benches were installed at the following locations:

- South Tienken – Bench in Memory of Susan Rutledge Walker
- North Tienken – Bench in Memory of Bob Peck
- South Dutton – Bench from the Woman’s National Farm and Garden Assoc.
- Overlook south of Flagstar – Bench from the Woman’s National Farm and Garden Assoc.
- South Gallagher – Bench in Memory of Anthony Blazeovski
- East Adams – Bench in Memory of Terrance Szymkiw

The third annual “Paint Creek Trail Virtual Bridge Walk” was held on Labor Day (Sept 1) with approximately 310 participants and volunteers. Route: Rochester Municipal Park north to Tienken, and Rochester Municipal Park north to Silver Bell and back. Participants were greeted with Mackinac Fudge, insulated water bottle holders and pedometers at the Kiwanis Pavilion. A 25% increase in attendance from 2007.

Eagle Scout candidate Bryan Walker continued work on the Paint Creek Trail Kiosk Project.

Appendix - 1

The Commission moved their offices from 4393 Collins Road to 4480 Orion Road in Oakland Township.

The Commission approved a license agreement with Detroit Water and Sewerage regarding a 96" water main that was being installed on Adams Road south of Orion Road in Oakland Township.

The Commission continued good fiscal management, with revenue higher than expenses.

*Summary of Events compiled by Alice Tombouliau, Trail Coordinator 1981 – 1990, Linda Gorecki, Trailways Coordinator 1991 – 1997, Kristen Myers, Trail Manager 2003-Present.*

City of Rochester  
Charter Township of Avon  
Townships of Oakland and Orion  
Agreement to Establish Trailways Commission

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into by and between the City of Rochester, the Charter Township of Avon, the Township of Oakland and the Township of Orion, for the purpose of establishing and providing for the powers and duties of the Trailways Commission, hereinafter COMMISSION, pursuant M.C.L.A. 124.501 et.seq.

**SECTION 1: PURPOSE**

The COMMISSION is hereby created as a separate public corporation, with the powers, functions and duties provided in this agreement, for the purpose of owning, exercising right of dominion over, developing, providing, maintaining and operating certain non-motorized public trails for recreational use within the jurisdiction of MEMBER UNITS.

**SECTION 2: MEMBERSHIP**

MEMBER UNITS to the COMMISSION shall be those local governments who are signatories to this agreement. The COMMISSION shall be considered an established public corporation when two local governments of the local governments named above have entered into this agreement. Subsequent to the effective date of the COMMISSION, other local governments, whether or not named above, may become MEMBER UNITS by entering into this agreement. The COMMISSION may require, as a condition of membership, a fair share contribution agreement between the COMMISSION and any proposed MEMBER UNIT, if the COMMISSION determines that such agreement is necessary to provide fair allocation of costs among present and proposed MEMBER UNITS. All local governments who are signatories to this agreement shall have full MEMBER UNIT status in accordance with this agreement. This agreement and any agreement entered into or obligation incurred by any MEMBER UNIT in accordance with this agreement, shall be binding upon that MEMBER UNIT'S successor in interest, if any.

12-23-81  
Amended 12-14-82

### **SECTION 3: GOVERNANCE**

#### **COMMISSION**

1. The COMMISSION shall be composed of two (2) commissioners from each MEMBER UNIT. The governing board of each MEMBER UNIT shall, by resolution, appoint its two commissioners, one of which shall be a member of the appointing governing board.
2. At least once every four years, each MEMBER UNIT shall certify to the COMMISSION the persons appointed pursuant to paragraph 1.
3. Commissioners shall serve at the pleasure of their MEMBER UNIT and may be removed by resolution of their MEMBER UNIT governing board at any time with or without cause. Commissioners who are members of a MEMBER UNIT governing board shall not serve beyond their term on the governing board, unless the other commissioner from that MEMBER UNIT is then a member of that MEMBER UNIT'S governing board.
4. Any vacancy on the COMMISSION arising for any reason shall be filled by appointment of the MEMBER UNIT governing board that made the original appointment, within forty-five (45) days of the vacancy, for the remainder of the unexpired term.
5. Each MEMBER UNIT governing board may also appoint alternate commissioners who shall serve with full privileges and duties in the absence of the regular commissioners.

12-23-81  
Amended 12-14-82

Officers

1. The COMMISSION shall elect from its membership a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and such other officers as it may deem appropriate, who shall serve terms of one (1) year commencing January 1<sup>st</sup>, except for the officers first elected who shall serve that fraction of the calendar year between COMMISSION election and November 30<sup>th</sup>.
2. Officers shall serve at the pleasure of the COMMISSION and may be removed by resolution at any time.
3. Vacancies in any office shall be filled by COMMISSION election within thirty (30) days of the vacancy, for the remainder of the unexpired term.
4. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the COMMISSION and shall have all privileges and duties of a commissioner. The Vice Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the COMMISSION at which the Chairperson is absent. The Secretary shall keep or cause to be made all non-financial reports, records and minutes required by this agreement or applicable law and shall be charged with assuring compliance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act and the Michigan Freedom of Information Act. The Treasurer shall have custody of all COMMISSION funds that shall be deposited, invested, and/or disbursed by the Treasurer as directed by the COMMISSION. The Treasurer shall be charged with assuring complete financial records and reports as required by this agreement or applicable law or contract provisions.

12-23-81  
Amended 03-25-86  
Amended 11-04-98

## **SECTION 4: MEETINGS**

### **A. SCHEDULE/CALL OF MEETINGS**

1. The COMMISSION shall meet at least quarterly and shall annually establish a regular meeting schedule which shall be posted at the offices of the MEMBER UNIT governing boards in similar form and within similar times as required by law for governmental meeting schedules.
2. Special meetings of the COMMISSION may be called by the Chairperson, or in the absence of the Chairperson, by the Vice Chairperson.

### **B. NOTICE**

Each Commissioner shall receive five (5) days written notice of all regular meetings and two (2) days written notice of all special meetings. All notices of all meetings shall also be posted as required by the Michigan Open Meetings Act.

### **C. VOTING**

A majority vote of the Commission shall be necessary to take any official action at a regular or special meeting, provided that only those items on the agenda may be acted upon, and provided that only bills which represent budgeted expenses may be approved. A majority of the COMMISSION, i.e., five members, shall constitute a quorum in such cases.

Bills which represent expenses not previously included in the budget may only be approved by a quorum including at least one member of each governmental unit.

12-23-81  
Amended 12-14-82

D. MINUTES

Complete written minutes of all COMMISSION meetings shall be kept in compliance with applicable provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act. Copies of minutes shall be sent to all commissioners and chairpersons of MEMBER UNIT governing boards as soon as reasonably possible following a COMMISSION meeting.

E. RULES

Roberts Rules of Order, when not in conflict with this agreement or written standing rules the COMMISSION may adopt, shall govern all meetings.

SECTION 5: POWERS

GENERAL POWERS

The COMMISSION shall have the following powers, authority and obligations:

1. Purchase, lease, receive, acquire, hold title in, trade, sell, lease or rent to others, dispose of, divide, distribute, own or exercise right of dominion over, all or part of any land, and any improvements thereon, within the railroad right of way described in Appendix A which is hereby incorporated and made part of this agreement. The COMMISSION may exercise the aforesaid powers over other land only upon consent of the governing board of the MEMBER UNIT in whose jurisdiction such land lies. The disposition of land acquired with aid from state or federal funds shall have the approval of the state or federal agency involved, if required by the agency. All property of the COMMISSION shall be used solely for the purposes stated in this agreement.

12-23-81  
Amended 12-14-82

## Appendix - 2

2. Improve, build, maintain and operate public trails, access sites and appropriate structures on COMMISSION land.
3. Contract or cooperate with other governmental units, public agencies, or private parties, as appropriate to carry out COMMISSION functions or fulfill COMMISSION obligations.
4. Hire a Director and such other personnel as it may determine necessary who shall serve at the pleasure of the COMMISSION subject to applicable law.
5. Accept funds, voluntary work, or other assistance to carry out COMMISSION functions or obligations, from any source, public or private, including, but not limited to, local governmental funding of specific projects, state or federal grants, and private donations. A complete record of all funds received from any source shall be maintained and made part of the annual financial report.
6. Establish policies or rules governing use of COMMISSION land or facilities not inconsistent with state or local law.
7. Recommend local ordinance provisions to MEMBER UNITS, as necessary to provide for the safety of the public utilizing COMMISSION land or facilities.
8. Make claims for federal or state aid payable to the individual or several MEMBER UNITS or the COMMISSION as may be available and appropriate to carry out the COMMISSION functions.

12-23-81  
Amended 12-14-82

## LIABILITY COVERAGE

Either each MEMBER UNIT or the COMMISSION shall purchase public liability insurance covering any cause of action, claim, damage, accident, injury or liability that may arise as a result of the ownership, construction, maintenance or operation of the land, public trails, access sites or other facilities of the COMMISSION. Each party purchasing such insurance shall name the COMMISSION and the other MEMBER UNITS as well as itself as the named insured. Each MEMBER UNIT shall hold harmless and indemnify the other MEMBER UNITS from any and all causes of action, including reasonable attorney's fees, arising within that MEMBER UNIT'S jurisdiction and for which that MEMBER UNIT would be responsible.

## REPORTS

The COMMISSION shall, at least annually, make a full and complete report of all of its activities to the governing boards of all MEMBER UNITS.

## LIMITATIONS

The COMMISSION shall have no power or authority to:

1. Levy any tax or issue any bonds in its own name.
2. Indebt any MEMBER UNIT in any way except as provided in this agreement.
3. Condemn any land for any purpose.

12-23-81  
Amended 12-14-82

SECTION 6: FINANCES

A. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of this COMMISSION shall be from January 1st to December 31st.

B. OPERATIONAL BUDGET

(i) The COMMISSION shall each year develop an operational budget which shall be limited to meeting, postage, document or accounting costs, and similar basic costs.

This budget shall not include engineering, legal, land purchase or lease, or any development or maintenance costs incurred or to be incurred by the COMMISSION.

(ii) The Bike Patrol Program expenses shall be included in the operational budget.

(iii) Each MEMBER UNIT shall pay an equal share of the operational budget except that portion of the operational budget that supports the Bike Patrol Program. The cost of the Bike Patrol Program is apportioned to each community according to the percentage of the entire trail that is located in that community.

C. PROJECT BUDGETS

The COMMISSION shall develop separate project budgets, as it deems appropriate, for all other costs and may recommend and contract with member units or other parties as necessary to pay such costs. For the purpose of initial acquisition, the allocation of costs shall be as set forth in Appendix B.

D. COMMISSIONER REIMBURSEMENT

Each Commissioner may be paid a flat fee of thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) for Commission meetings actually attended.

E. FINANCIAL AUDITS/REPORTS

The treasurer shall make or cause to be made a full and complete financial report to MEMBER UNITS of all the COMMISSIONS financial transactions and affairs at the end of each financial year. Said report shall include a complete audit by a certified public accountant. State and federal audit requirements shall be fully met as applicable.

12-23-81  
Amended 12-14-82  
Amended 06-14-83  
Amended 05-24-95  
Amended 11-13-01

SECTION 7: TERMINATION/DISSOLUTION

**A. MEMBER UNIT TERMINATION**

A MEMBER UNIT may terminate its membership only upon ninety (90) days written notice to the COMMISSION and termination shall be effective only upon the elapse of the ninety (90) days. If a MEMBER UNIT terminates its membership, all COMMISSION land and improvements thereon within that jurisdiction shall remain property of the COMMISSION. A MEMBER UNIT terminating its membership shall remain liable for all obligation incurred by it pursuant to this agreement and prior to actual termination.

**B. COMMISSION DISSOLUTION**

If all or all but one of the MEMBER UNITS terminates their membership, the COMMISSION shall be considered dissolved.

1. Upon dissolution, the trailways property and any improvements thereon located within the boundaries of each former MEMBER UNIT shall revert to ownership by that unit of government, upon such terms and conditions as are to be agreed upon by the MEMBER UNITS. Each unit of government shall be responsible to uphold the following provisions:

- (a) The trailways property and the improvements thereon shall remain open for public recreational use in perpetuity;
- (b) No prohibitions, impediments or blockages shall be made to the free passage of the trailways of legitimate trail users;
- (c) The use of the trailways and improvements thereon shall remain subject to all applicable deed restrictions and all applicable state provision by law or contract.

12-23-81  
Amended 12-14-82

Appendix - 2

2. After dissolution, if any former MEMBER UNIT fails to uphold any of the provisions named in Section 7 (B) (1) above, any of the other former MEMBER UNITS shall have cause to enforce compliance with said provision(s), provided however that failure to seek enforcement of any provision shall not constitute a waiver.

SECTION 8: AMENDMENTS

This agreement may be amended in whole or in any part by written agreement of the governing boards of all MEMBER UNITS.

SECTION 9: STATE APPROVAL

As soon as reasonably practicable after the effective date of this agreement, this agreement shall be officially submitted to the Office of the Governor for approval pursuant to the Urban Cooperation Act of 1967.

SECTION 10: APPLICABLE LAWS

The COMMISSION shall fully comply in all activities with applicable local, state and federal laws and regulation and with applicable grant conditions or contract provisions.

12-23-81  
Amended 12-14-82

SECTION 11: EFFECTIVE DATE

This agreement shall be in full force and effect and the COMMISSION shall be considered in effect as an operating public corporation as of the second date in time, indicated below.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the authorized representatives of the MEMBER UNITS have signed this agreement of the date indicated below.

Date: January 6, 1982

By: Thomas L Werth  
Mayor, City of Rochester

By: Maxine Ross  
Clerk, City of Rochester

Effective

Date: December 23, 1981

By: Earl E. Borden  
Supervisor, Avon Charter Township

By: Betty Adamo  
Clerk, Avon Charter Township

Date: January 7, 1982

By: Stuart Braid  
Supervisor, Township of Oakland

By: Carolyn L. Phelps  
Clerk, Township of Oakland

Date: December 21, 1981

By: JoAnn Van Tassel  
Orion Township Supervisor

By: Katherine E. Jacobs  
Orion Township Clerk

\

Appendix - 2

APPENDIX A – Intergovernmental Agreement

ALL THAT PROPERTY situated in the Township of Shelby, in the County of Macomb; in the Village of Rochester, the Township of Avon, Oakland and Orion in the County of Oakland, all in the State of Michigan, being parts of Section 18 in Township 3 North, Range 12 East; Sections 13, 14, 11, 10, 3 and 4 in Township 3 North, Range 11 East, Sections 33, 28, 21, 20, 19, and 18 in Township 4 North, Range 11 East; and Sections 13 and 12 in Township 4 North, Range 10 East, and being all the right, title and interest of The Michigan Central Railroad Company of, in and to all those certain pieces or parcels of land and premises, easements, rights-of-way and any other right of any kind whatsoever appurtenant thereto or used in conjunction therewith on and along that portion of the railroad of said Railroad Company known as the Mackinaw Branch, said portion being described as follows:

BEGINNING in said Township of Shelby and County of Macomb at the Northwesterly line of the land and right-of-way which was conveyed to Consolidated Rail Corporation by deed dated March 29, 1976 and recorded in the Office of the Register of said Macomb County in Liber 3005 at page 318, said line being at right angles to the centerline of said railroad at valuation survey station 1372+80 therein; and extending thence in a general Northwesterly direction, following along the right-of-way of Mackinaw Branch, approximately 11.52 miles to the Southerly line of the Village of Lake Orion, the place of ending, said line passing through a point in said centerline of railroad at valuation survey station 1981+30 therein.

TOGETHER with all bridges, culverts, tiles, drainage facilities and all other railroad appurtenances located on the premises hereinabove described.

12-23-81

**APPENDIX B**

Purchase Offer Budget

Acquisition of Penn Central Right-of-Way

Michigan Land Trust Fund	\$225,000.00
Orion Township	18,500.00
Avon Charter Township	84,110.00
Oakland Township	98,640.00
City of Rochester	23,750.00

12-12-82

Amended 06-14-83

# Use and Users of the Paint Creek Trail

## Introduction

The Paint Creek Trail (PCT) is a multiple use, non-motorized rail-trail of eight and a half miles, running from Rochester to Lake Orion, Michigan. It parallels meandering Paint Creek, one of the very few cold water streams in southeastern Michigan. The trail is primarily surfaced with crushed limestone except for a short paved stretch in Rochester. It ranges in dressed width from six to ten feet. It also passes through a corner of the Bald Mountain State Recreation Area, linking to additional non-motorized trails and public lands. The trail was selected by researchers from the Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies at MSU as one of a number of study sites to examine the tourism, transportation, recreation and exercise benefits of Michigan multiple use trails. The project is funded by the Michigan Department of Transportation's Non-Motorized Enhancement Program and the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station. On-site trail use observation, coupled with a self-administered survey of selected trail users, was conducted from June 15 through October 8, 2004 to provide assessment data. The authors thank Kristen Myers (PCT Commission), Marge Gatliff and Larry Filardeau (Oakland County), Pete Ferency (PCT Ranger and survey administrator), Brad Edelson and Christina Egeler (survey administrators) and Nancy Krupiarz (Michigan Rails-to-Trails Conservancy) for their assistance.

## Methods

Trail use was observed at five different points on the PCT on systematically selected days and times during the study. Each sample day/time, a trained survey administrator was positioned adjacent to the trail. He/she counted all individuals going in one direction, classifying them as adults or children and noting their mode of travel (bicycle, foot, etc.). The authors then extrapolated these observations to estimate use for May-September 2004. At ten-minute intervals during three-hour observation periods, the survey administrator would select the next passing adult and ask him/her to respond to a self-administered, one-page questionnaire. The minimum number of surveys distributed per observation period was zero (severe weather day) and the maximum was 18. During the study, there were 61 observations periods in which 3,630 trail uses were observed. A total of 890 surveys were distributed, with 604 (68%) completed and returned. Non-respondents were most likely to cite a lack of time, training and couldn't stop, or already doing a survey and declining to do a second.

Survey data provides two important measures. When considering respondents this information provides accurate information about uses, but it is not representative of distinct individual users, as those who visit more frequently are more likely to be sampled and to be asked to complete a survey. However, when the data are weighted to account for this frequent use bias, the characteristics of distinct users/visitors can be appropriately assessed. This report is organized by first describing levels of use based on observations, then characteristics of uses based on unweighted survey data and finally, characteristics of distinct users based on weighted survey data.

## Observation Highlights

- The PCT had 66,420 estimated uses May 1- Sept. 30, 2004, with 56% on weekdays and 44% on weekends.
- Adults (19 and over) accounted for 86% of the uses and children for 14%. Of the adult uses, 56% were bicycling and 44% were walking/running. For child uses, 65% were bicycling and 35% walking/running.

## Use Highlights from Surveys

- Ninety percent of PCT uses were by Oakland county residents or workers.

## Appendix - 3

- For adults, males accounted for 53% of PCT uses and females 47%. Of these uses, 16% were by those 61 and over, 46% by those 41 through 60, 29% by those 25 through 40 and 8% by those 19 through 24.
- Forty-one percent of PCT use was done without driving a vehicle to it. Half (51%) of the uses were by people living two miles or less from the trail.
- Eighty-four percent of uses were for two hours or less and 93% were rated as satisfactory experiences.

### *Distinct User Highlights from Surveys*

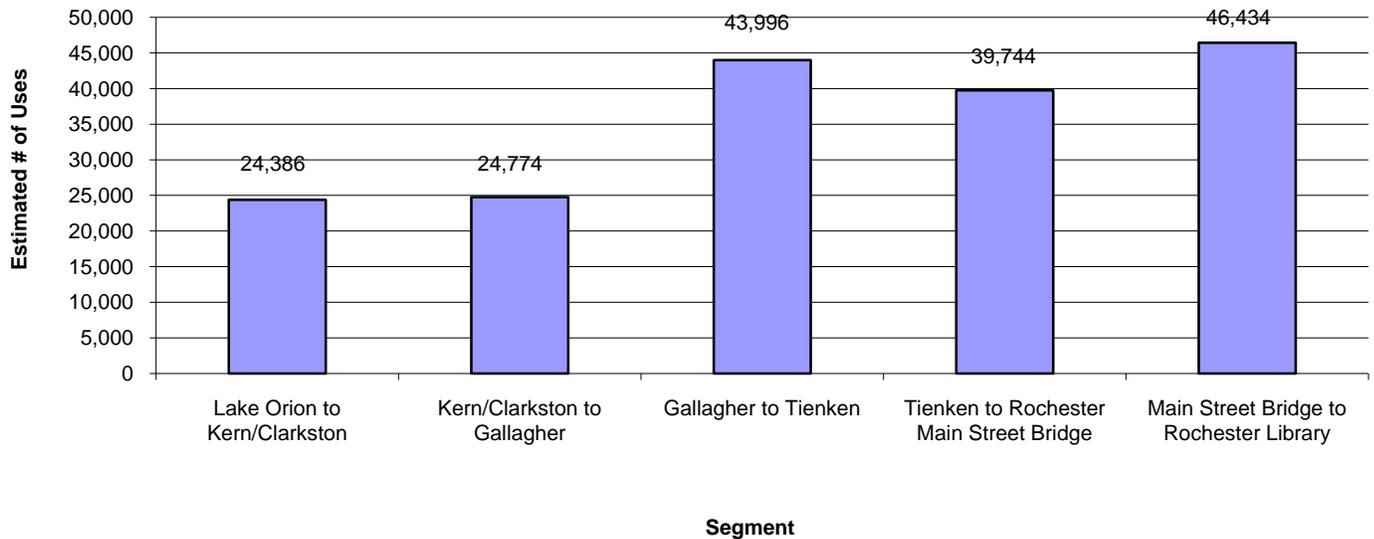
- On average, distinct visitors used the PCT 11 times per year, with almost half their uses during June – August.
- Three percent were disabled (had an impairment that seriously limits their participation in work or recreation).
- Seventy-three percent of distinct users were residents and/or workers in Oakland County.
- When asked an open-ended question about the one most important PCT improvement needed, the top four suggestions were: no suggestion/doing fine (39%), provide bathrooms (12%), improve trail surface without paving by leveling, smaller crushed stone, etc. (7%) and improve road crossings especially at Tienken (7%).

## **Trail Use Estimate and Characteristics**

### PCT Use Estimate

The segments (observation points) were: Lake Orion to Kern/Clarkston Rd. (at Newton St looking south.); Kern/Clarkston Rd. to Gallagher (Southeast of Clarkston/Kern Crossing at Conservation marker/bench looking north); Gallagher to Tienken (NW of Gallagher parking lot at Oak Leaf monument looking north); Tienken to Paint Creek Bridge in Rochester (parking lot at Tienken looking north); and a final southern intercept (just north of Main Street Bridge in Rochester looking north). Adding the use estimated for each segment based on observations provides a total estimate of 179,334 uses from May 1st through September 30th, 2004. Use by segment is shown in Figure 1. However, based on survey data, the typical use involved 2.7 segments of the five segments. Hence, this use of multiple segments (2.7) is divided into the total estimate (179,334) providing a more conservative and realistic estimate of 66,420 total PCT uses May – September 2004. Of those 37,014 were weekday uses and 29,405 were weekend uses. Adults (18 and over) accounted for 86% of the uses and children for 14%. Unlike many other multiple use trails, due to a lack of paved surface, there was no appreciable in-line skating.

Figure One. PCT Estimated Uses by Segment May-Sept. 04



**Purpose of PCT Use and Trail Access**

Survey data suggest the primary purpose of most PCT uses was either for normal exercise (48%) or recreation (37%). Training level exercise accounted for 11% of uses and 4% had a primary purpose of transportation to work, school, or other locations. The vast majority (98%) of PCT uses were rated satisfactory by the participants (6-9 on a scale of 1-9 with “9” being highly satisfied and “1” being highly dissatisfied), with 76% being rated “9” and 14% “8.” Less than one percent of uses were rated as neutral (“5”) and 1% as being unsatisfactory (“1-4”). Slightly more than half (59%) of PCT uses were by those who drove a vehicle to reach the trail. While more than half (62%) lived three miles or less from the trail, the challenge of linking to the trail by crossing busy state and county roadways limits safe access for many. The two ends of the PCT (Rochester and Lake Orion) are each the starting point for approximately 20% of the trail uses. The remaining 60% entered the trail along its length with the cross roads of Tienken, Dutton, Gallagher and Clarkston as the most common entry points. Almost half (43%) of the PCT uses were for one hour or less and over four-fifths (82%) were for two hours or less.

Most (55%) PCT uses were by solo trail participants, with those in parties of two or more accounting for 45% of the uses. For all uses (solo and group), the average party size was 1.7. Few parties (11%) contained children. Of the children uses, 51% were by males and 49% were by females. Parties that included children typically had one or two children. For adult uses, males accounted for 53% and females for 47%. Sixteen percent of adult uses were by those who were 61 and over, 46% were by those 41 through 60, 29% by those 25 through 40 and 8% by those 19 through 24. Those defined as disabled under the Americans with Disabilities Act accounted for 3% of the uses.

**Tourist Data**

Tourist uses, use by those who do not live or work in Oakland County, accounted for 10% of the PCT uses. Tourist uses were more likely to be for recreation (47% vs. 37%), somewhat less likely to be for normal exercise (44% vs. 48%), training level exercise (7% vs. 11%) or transportation (2% vs. 4%) than all uses. Sixty-six percent of tourist uses involved a vehicle driven to the trail. One hundred percent of tourist uses were rated as satisfactory, with 83% receiving the highest rating (“9”) and 11% receiving the next highest rating (“8”). Tourist uses tended to last longer than non-tourist uses with 27% lasting longer than two hours and an average of over three segments traversed per tourist use. The largest proportion of tourist uses (46%) was by those 41 through 60 years. Only 9% of tourist parties had children (18 and under). Thirteen percent of tourist uses involved eating in a restaurant during their trail

### Appendix - 3

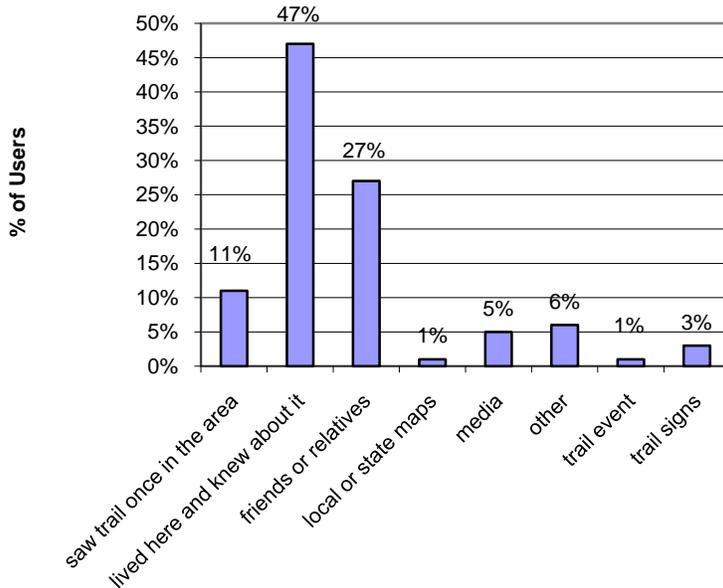
use. The majority of those citing a primary reason for their PCT visit noted bicycling (46%), walking (33%) and running/jogging (18%).

An additional postage paid postcard questionnaire was distributed to all those who completed a survey and were identified as tourists. Of the 56 provided a postcard, 20 (36%) completed the additional questionnaire and returned it by mail. Of these tourist respondents, 70% were from Michigan and 30% resided elsewhere. When asked if the main purpose of their visit was to use the PCT, 58% responded yes. This suggests that approximately 6% of all PCT uses are by tourists who primarily visit Oakland County to use the PCT. Of the tourists surveyed who visited Oakland County primarily to use the PCT, 9% stayed overnight in Oakland County and 91% were on day visits. During their trip to Oakland County primarily to use the PCT, 9% spent money on lodging, 54% on restaurant food/drink, 18% on groceries, 18% on their vehicle and 9% on all other items.

## Distinct Trail User Characteristics

### Source of Discovery of the PCT

How Users Learned of the PCT



The largest proportion (47%) of distinct trail users first learned of the PCT by living here and knowing about it. Another 27% learned of the trail by word of mouth from friends or relatives lived here and knew about it. Eleven percent of the users saw the trail once they lived in the area. The remainder of users surveyed learned of the trail from the media (5%), from trail signs (3%), from local or state maps (1%), from a trail event (1%) or by a variety of other means (6%) including the Internet, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Clinton Valley Trout Unlimited, Trails Atlas of Michigan and bicycle salespersons. Seventy-three percent of distinct trail users lived and/or worked in Oakland County.

## Appendix -3

### *Distinct PCT Users' Trail Activities during the Past Twelve Months*

Of those who had previously used the trail, the average use the previous 12 months was 11.1 times with 43% occurring during June – August. Recreation was the most common motivation for PCT use by distinct trail users (51%), followed by normal exercise (38%), training level exercise (7%) and transportation (5%).

### *Distinct User Suggestions for PCT Improvement*

Users were asked in an open-ended format to suggest one, most important improvement to the PCT. Suggestions noted by 3% or more of distinct users were: no suggestion/doing fine (39%), bathrooms for trail users (12%), improve trail surface other than paving through filling puddles, better crushed limestone fines, etc. (7%), improve road crossings especially at Tienken (7%), keep the trail environment natural/rustic (6%), widen the trail (5%), drinking fountains (5%), pave the trail (4%), extend the trail (3%), improved signage/mileage markers (3%) and all others (9%).

### **Distinct User Suggestions for PCT Extension**

When asked if they had specific suggestions on where they would prefer the PCT be extended, 34% provided a suggestion. Of those providing a suggestion, ideas mentioned by 5% or more include: 15% in any direction just provide more, 13% supported extension to the Polly Ann Trail, 11% in a general northerly direction, 9% in a general southerly direction, 8% to the Macomb-Orchard Trail, 8% to the Clinton River Trail and 5% into Lake Orion.

### *Distinct Tourist Users*

Tourists first learned of the PCT primarily through friends or relatives (57%), living in the general area and knowing about it (17%) and seeing the trail once in the area (13%). Other sources of first knowledge of the PCT were the Internet, bicycle shops, Michigan Trail Atlas and Clinton Valley Trout Unlimited.

### *Management Implications of the Study*

The PCT serves residents, workers and visitors to the Rochester/Lake Orion community. Considered as a single trail, not segments, on average it receives 434 uses per day from May – September. Of those uses, 6% are by tourists that make a specific trip to the area to use the PCT, with most spending money in the area at one or more of the following: restaurants, filling stations, convenience stores, sporting goods outlets, etc.

Most PCT trail users are highly satisfied. This is especially true for tourists. Across all users, this is evidenced by the highest proportion of respondents having no suggestion for trail improvement or requesting it to stay as it is (39%). However, some key sources of dissatisfaction have been identified and many valuable suggestions for improvements made by respondents. The greatest source of dissatisfaction is the PCT's lack of comfort facilities. Twelve percent suggested the need for bathrooms and another 5% supported drinking fountains as the single most important improvement for the PCT. This is all the more important in the middle sections of the trail as there are very few businesses that trail users can patronize to gain access to bathrooms while enjoying a drink, snack or shopping. Besides influencing enjoyment, lack of access to drinking water on a hot day is a safety issue, especially for the elderly and young children.

The surface of the PCT is another source of concern. While a relatively small proportion suggested paving (4%), more (7%) suggested leveling (grading), adding additional, well crushed limestone fines, removing large stones and improving bridges/boardwalks and their approaches. A smaller proportion (2%) specifically stated their opposition to paving the trail, many citing concerns about maintaining naturalness and a desire to exclude in-line skating. Another 5% suggested widening the trail. As one rides toward the middle sections of the trail, the visibly dressed width narrows as turf has encroached on what was once a dressed limestone fines surface. Resurfacing of the PCT with crushed limestone began October 18, 2004 and was completed in early

## Appendix - 3

November, 2004. It is important to note that respondents were not asked to state their preference in the survey for paving or limestone fines. Comments related to paving, limestone fines, etc. were only made in the context of the survey question "what is the single most important improvement you would suggest for the PCT?"

Surface maintenance, regardless of the surface, is also necessary. This may include regular grading and restriction of turf encroachment from the margins of the trail. Another trail surface challenge is the emerald ash borer. As it becomes more prevalent in Oakland County, the many green and white ash trees along the PCT are all likely to succumb (as many already have) and are likely to present a hazard to the surface through fallen limbs or entire trees across the trail. Removal of ash trees prior to their demise in a single step rather than as on-going ash removal may be more financially practical and enhance public safety. Winter is an excellent time to accomplish this task when trail use is minimal and the ground is frozen limiting the impacts of necessary wheeled equipment. However, education of trail users on the rationale of such a move (public safety, control of emerald ash borer, cost containment) will be critical, as many highly value the perceived naturalness of the PCT corridor and 6% specifically mentioned maintaining or enhancing naturalness as their one most important suggestion for improvement.

Three percent of trail users advocated extension as the most important trail improvement. In addition, when all survey respondents were asked in an open-ended question about what they felt was the most important extension of the PCT, a third (34%) provided specific suggestions. Support appeared strongest for expanding northward, with a link to Lake Orion (currently in progress in cooperation with residential development in Lake Orion), the Polly Ann Trail and north as a general direction most commonly mentioned. Unlike more rural locations where potential links may not exist, there are many potential links to the PCT if one includes sidewalk systems in towns and road shoulders. However, the serenity, naturalness and quiet of the current PCT are difficult to find in the area outside of public lands such as Bald Mountain, especially as one travels south from Rochester.

One linkage to stress is better connection to nearby residential areas. This may be accomplished by sidewalks, bicycle lanes on municipal, county or state roadways or through additional trails. This has the potential to boost trail use for transportation and economic purposes as businesses (both as places of employment and consumer spending) are better connected to workers and shoppers. It can also be valuable in efforts to promote safe routes to schools that enhance the physical fitness of youth. Perhaps the most challenging direction for trail extension is west, where M24 creates a significant safety barrier to trail users unless a bridge or tunnel provides a safe way to cross this busy thoroughfare. As with other trails across Michigan, linking with other jurisdictions including cities, townships and counties will enhance the prospects for trail extension as will working with interested citizens and organizations.

Improved signage and mileage markers, while noted by fewer people (3%) than the above concerns, also merit consideration. While signs or maps for regular resident users showing directions, distance and "you are here" may be unneeded, such visible information is important to help a first visit by a tourist, new resident or new worker be an enjoyable one. Also, providing signs directing people to the PCT will provide a welcome to visitors and direct them to appropriate trail access locations, including parking areas.

### Conclusion

The PCT is a prominent and valued asset of the region. Its already high standing in the community can be enhanced and strengthened by listening to this representative cross-section of trail users and prudently acting on their suggestions.

November 2004 by Christine A Vogt Ph.D., Charles Nelson Ph. D. and Joshua Pedersen.

For more information contact Christine Vogt ([vogtc@msu.edu](mailto:vogtc@msu.edu)) or Charles Nelson ([nelsonc@msu.edu](mailto:nelsonc@msu.edu)) at Michigan State University

**Paint Creek Trail  
2009 – 2013 Recreation Master Plan Survey**

*(Please return to Paint Creek Trail tent or staff when completed)*

**1. What City, Village or Township and State do you live in?** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. What is your age? (circle)** 0-10 11-15 16-20 21-30 31-40 41-50 51-60 61+

**3. How do you get to the Paint Creek Trail?** (walk, bike, car, etc) \_\_\_\_\_

**4. When do you visit the Trail? Please choose all that apply.**

- Mornings    Afternoons    Evenings    Weekends  
 Winter    Spring    Summer    Fall

**5. On average, how often do you visit the Trail during the following seasons? ( X )**

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Daily				
Once a week				
3-5 times a week				
2-3 times a month				
Once a month				
Less than once a month				
Never				

**6. What is the main reason you use the Trail? Please check only one.**

- Exercise    Transportation    Recreation    Nature Observation    Other \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Excluding the weather, how do you rate your last visit to the Trail? (check one)**

- My visit was very enjoyable    My visit was enjoyable    My visit was average  
 My visit was somewhat enjoyable    My visit was not enjoyable.

**8. Listed below are potential improvements that could be made to the Paint Creek Trail. Please check all the improvements you would like to have made to the Trail.**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parking            | <input type="checkbox"/> Horse hitching posts      | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail widening                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking fountains | <input type="checkbox"/> Mileage signs             | <input type="checkbox"/> Extension to Polly Ann          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping        | <input type="checkbox"/> Information signs         | <input type="checkbox"/> More police patrols             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bike racks         | <input type="checkbox"/> Interpretive side trails  | <input type="checkbox"/> Connections to local businesses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic Tables      | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant identification info | <input type="checkbox"/> More cultural enhancements      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benches            | <input type="checkbox"/> Air compressor            | <input type="checkbox"/> More Trail events               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trash Cans         | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet Waste bags            | <input type="checkbox"/> Website improvements            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail lighting     | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelters                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Restrooms          | <input type="checkbox"/> Paving with asphalt       |  |

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**9. What is the biggest problem or area in need of improvement on the Paint Creek Trail? Please check only one.**

- No suggestion/Everything fine
- Trail Surface maintenance
- Trail crossings
- Lack of parking
- Loose dogs
- Too crowded
- Speeding bicycles
- Pet waste
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**10. What is your favorite thing about the Paint Creek Trail?**

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**11. The Paint Creek Trail currently offers two events each year, National Trails Day and the Labor Day Bridge Walk. Are there other programs or events you would like to see organized? If yes, please describe. If no, skip to question # 12:**

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**12. Where do you get most of your information regarding the Paint Creek Trail and events? Please check only one.**

- Local newspapers
- Trail website
- Calling Trail office
- Word of mouth
- Trail e-mail Friends list
- Flyers/Posters on the Trail
- Trail Staff
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**13. How would you rate your safety on the Trail? Please circle only one, and provide any additional thoughts about safety:**

- I feel very safe on the Trail
- I feel safe on the Trail
- I feel mostly safe on the Trail
- I feel somewhat safe on the Trail
- I do not feel very safe on the Trail

Additional thoughts about safety (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your participation! If you would like more Paint Creek Trail information, please provide your contact information and indicate your interest below (optional):**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  I'd like more info on the Master Plan

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  I'd like a copy of the Public Hearing schedule

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  I'd like to be added to the "Friends" List to receive trail news and information regarding events.

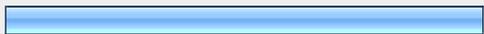
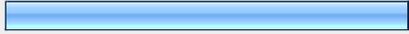
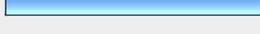
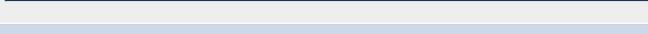
E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Paint Creek Trail Master Plan Survey

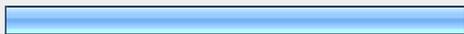
1. Where do you live?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Village/City/Township:		100.0%	180
State:		100.0%	180
<i>answered question</i>			180
<i>skipped question</i>			0

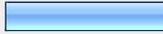
2. What is your age?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
0-10		0.0%	0
11-15		1.7%	3
16-20		1.1%	2
21-30		11.1%	20
31-40		21.1%	38
<b>41-50</b>		<b>30.0%</b>	<b>54</b>
51-60		25.6%	46
61 +		9.4%	17
<i>answered question</i>			180
<i>skipped question</i>			0

3. How do you get to the Paint Creek Trail? (walk, bike, car, etc)		
		Response Count
		180
<i>answered question</i>		180
<i>skipped question</i>		0

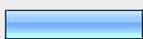
4. When do you visit the Trail? Please choose all that apply.			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Mornings		63.3%	114
Afternoons		53.3%	96
Evenings		58.3%	105
Weekends		72.2%	130
Winter		33.9%	61
Spring		85.0%	153
<b>Summer</b>		<b>90.6%</b>	<b>163</b>
Fall		85.6%	154
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>180</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>0</b>

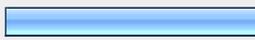
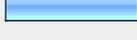
5. On average, how often do you visit the Trail during the following seasons?					
	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Response Count
Daily	66.7% (10)	<b>93.3% (14)</b>	73.3% (11)	33.3% (5)	15
Once a week	66.7% (44)	56.1% (37)	<b>71.2% (47)</b>	25.8% (17)	66
3-5 times a week	71.6% (48)	<b>91.0% (61)</b>	71.6% (48)	20.9% (14)	67
2-3 times a month	<b>55.0% (33)</b>	<b>55.0% (33)</b>	<b>55.0% (33)</b>	25.0% (15)	60
Once a month	46.3% (19)	<b>53.7% (22)</b>	46.3% (19)	29.3% (12)	41
Less than once a month	37.1% (13)	31.4% (11)	28.6% (10)	<b>45.7% (16)</b>	35
Never	14.5% (8)	1.8% (1)	16.4% (9)	<b>100.0% (55)</b>	55
				<i>answered question</i>	<b>180</b>
				<i>skipped question</i>	<b>0</b>

6. What is the main reason you use the Trail? Please check only one.			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Exercise		61.1%	110
Transportation		2.2%	4
Recreation		26.1%	47
Nature Observation		6.1%	11
Other (please specify)		4.4%	8
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>180</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>0</b>

7. Excluding the weather, how do you rate your last visit to the Trail?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
My Visit was very enjoyable		75.0%	135
My Visit was enjoyable		21.1%	38
My Visit was average		3.9%	7
My Visit was somewhat enjoyable		0.0%	0
My Visit was not enjoyable		0.0%	0
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>180</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>0</b>

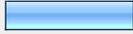
8. Listed below are potential improvements that could be made to the Paint Creek Trail. Please check all the improvements you would like to have made to the Trail.			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Parking		22.2%	40
Drinking Fountains		46.7%	84
Landscaping		2.8%	5
Bike Racks		12.8%	23
Picnic Tables		12.8%	23
Benches		17.8%	32
Trash Cans		22.2%	40
Trail lighting		15.0%	27
Restrooms		45.6%	82
Horse Hitching Posts		2.2%	4
Mileage Signs		26.1%	47
Information Signs		17.8%	32
Interpretive side trails		15.6%	28
Plant Identification Info		20.6%	37
Air compressor		8.3%	15
Pet waste bags		19.4%	35
Shelters		9.4%	17
Paving with asphalt		15.0%	27
Trail widening		12.8%	23
<b>Extension to Polly Ann Trail</b>		<b>57.2%</b>	<b>103</b>
More police patrols		13.3%	24
Connections to local businesses		20.0%	36
More cultural enhancements		5.6%	10
More Trail events		12.2%	22
Website improvements		4.4%	8

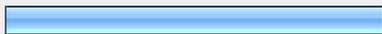
Other (please specify)		17.8%	32
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>180</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>0</b>

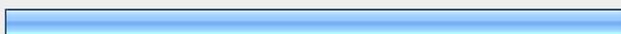
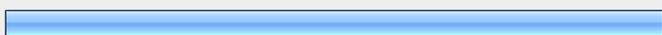
9. What is the biggest problem or area in need of improvement on the Paint Creek Trail? Please check only one.			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No suggestion/Everything fine		33.3%	60
Trail surface maintenance		6.7%	12
Trail crossings		8.9%	16
Lack of parking		8.3%	15
Loose dogs		5.0%	9
Speeding bicycles		10.0%	18
Pet waste		3.9%	7
Too crowded		6.7%	12
Other (please specify)		17.2%	31
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>180</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>0</b>

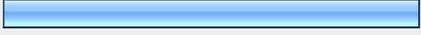
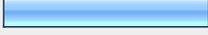
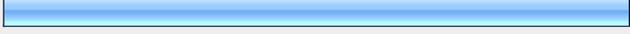
10. What is your favorite thing about the Paint Creek Trail?		
		Response Count
		180
		<b>answered question</b>
		<b>180</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>
		<b>0</b>

11. The Paint Creek Trail currently offers two events each year, National Trails Day and the Labor Day Bridge Walk. Are there other programs or events you would like to see organized? If yes, please describe. If no, skip to question #12.		
		Response Count
		27
<i>answered question</i>		<b>27</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>153</b>

12. Where do you get most of your information regarding the Paint Creek Trail and events? Please choose only one.			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Local Newspapers		22.8%	41
Trail Website		21.1%	38
Calling Trail office		0.0%	0
Word of Mouth		17.2%	31
Trail e-mail Friends list		8.3%	15
Flyers/Posters on the Trail		16.7%	30
Trail Staff		2.8%	5
Other (please specify)		11.1%	20
<i>answered question</i>			<b>180</b>
<i>skipped question</i>			<b>0</b>

13. How would you rate your safety on the Trail? Please choose only one, and provide any additional thoughts about safety:			
		Response Percent	Response Count
I feel very safe on the Trail		50.0%	90
I feel safe on the Trail		33.9%	61
I feel mostly safe on the Trail		11.7%	21
I feel somewhat safe on the Trail		3.3%	6
I do not feel safe on the Trail		1.1%	2
Additional Thoughts about Safety (optional):			24
<b>answered question</b>			<b>180</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>0</b>

14. Thank you for your participation! If you would like more Paint Creek Trail information, please provide your contact information below (optional):			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Name		86.5%	77
Address		83.1%	74
City/State/Zip		82.0%	73
<b>E-Mail Address</b>		<b>87.6%</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>answered question</b>			<b>89</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>91</b>

15. I'd like more information on the following (optional):			
		Response Percent	Response Count
I'd like more information on the Master Plan		55.1%	43
I'd like a copy of the Public Hearing Schedule		26.9%	21
<b>I'd like to be added to the "Friends" List to receive trail news and information regarding events</b>		<b>83.3%</b>	<b>65</b>
Other (please specify)		9.0%	7
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>78</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>102</b>

## Survey Summary – Additional Responses

### Question #8:

**Listed below are potential improvements that could be made to the Paint Creek Trail. Please check all the improvements you would like to have made to the Trail. (Responses to “other”):**

- “Dust control in the summer”
- “Do not pave it!”
- “Water trough for horses & pets. Room for horse trailer parking”
- “I definitely do NOT want the trail paved with asphalt!!!”
- “MAJOR IMPROVEMENT – CONNECT TO POLLY ANN!”
- “Slow Down signs or speed bumps for vehicles on cross streets”
- “Tunnels under roads like Rochester Road”
- “Thanks for the great job that is done in maintaining and expanding”
- “We like to ride and then stop for lunch or dinner in town”
- “Need a bridge over Tienken Road (safety reasons)”
- “I feel great to be here. A basketball court would be great in the park”
- “Wonderful! More gardens – cooperative with schools for vegetable garden”
- “It’s a great trail”
- “Snow shovel in winter”
- “Restrooms would be an AWESOME improvement”
- “signage of various wildlife around the trail”
- “Do not change a thing! It is a wilderness adventure!”
- “speed bumps at streets crossing the trail”
- “GROOMED XC SKIING TRAIL IN WINTER”
- “Need to put safety first and patrol more”
- “Do not pave the trail”
- “speed bumps or stop signs for all vehicles on Dutton, Silver Bell, ....crossings”
- “This trail is one of the last areas that offer a habitat to wild animals and tranquility to humans. Please leave it alone for our children to enjoy”
- “signs with trail rules ie: bike etiquette”
- “put a roof on the wooden structure that is near the parking lot at Gallagher Road”
- “signs to inform bike riders to let you know when they are behind you, many use bells or say on the left, but sometimes they almost run into you. If a sign could be placed every couple miles it might make it more pleasant for both bike riders and walkers”
- “recycling containers (not just trash)”
- “too dusty in the summer”
- “let’s keep those hand sanitizers in place!”

Question #9:

**What is the biggest problem or area in need of improvement on the Paint Creek Trail? Please check only one. (Responses to “other”):**

- “Adams Rd. Parking”
- “restrooms – there are only 3 spots (Clarkston road, Paint creek cider mill, and Rochester Park) 1 or 2 more setups like Clarkston road would be nice!!!!”
- “NEED CONNECTION TO POLLY ANN TRAIL”
- “People seem to monitor their dogs, but horse droppings on the trail are an issue. Don’t know if it’s the police patrol, or other riders, but they should be responsible for cleaning their animal’s messes. Trail has recently been crowded, but that just means people are enjoying it”
- “Lighting for early morning commuters”
- “Improved parking with trash cans available for litter. Restrooms”
- “Information signs for walkers and riders on rules of the trail”
- “Lack of restrooms”
- “trail surface from park to Tienken”
- “Lack of restroom facilities”
- “It’s not clear enough to run on in the winter once it snows”
- “More entrance/exits to and from the trail”
- “uncontrolled children”
- “Fishermen are always wandering around in the bogs/wetland areas where they don’t seem they should be”
- “Graffiti, litter, too many redundant signs”
- “Safety – no patrolling”
- “Stroller ladies taking up the entire trail, not moving for others”
- “People not aware of trail etiquette, single file, not blocking the trail”
- “safety – need lot of police or other patrol”
- “more rest stops(benches, water, bathroom)”
- “more areas for restrooms and drinking fountains”
- “Undeducated/discourteous trail people that believe they have the right of way when crossing roadways”
- “bikes riding two or three abreast...who do not move”
- “more of a buffer between development and the trail”
- “Not enough people actually saying “hello”!!!!”
- “Remind slower traffic to stay to the right; groups seem to take up to whole trail width”
- “Connection to Polly Ann trail would enhance the Paint Creek Trail experience”
- “Adams Road crossing”
- “Bugs”
- “Dust! It clings to everything. If something could be done about the dust it would help”

Question # 13:

**Additional Thoughts about Safety:**

- "It would be wise in trail literature & signs to advise people about basic safety around horses. Mostly just the courtesy of calling out when they approach, especially from behind"
- "Again, lights every so often along the trail for early morning commuters. Or a few very well lit areas with perhaps a way to reach emergency response if needed (like on a college campus)"
- "The Trail gets very dark at night. Some lighting would be helpful. Maybe just for the evening hours"
- "Could use a few more reference markers, just in case something goes wrong..use cell phone to call and provide a fairly close ref point. Come to think of it, I have never even seen any kind of patrol our their or on the Clinton River Trail....."
- "needs lights for at night. At some of the crossings it's hard to see other people coming"
- "a signboard with emergency contact information"
- "I feel very safe during the day"
- "Secluded areas will always pose a potential danger. Best to use the trail with more than one person"
- "I love the equestrian and bicycle police patrols. I would hope we could have a few more. I've noticed a couple of strange walkers on a regular basis"
- "I generally feel safe on the trail and love seeing the patrols. I fear more for the security of my vehicle"
- "there is a high frequency of cars running the red light at Tienken"
- "OCCASSIONALLY WILL COME ACROSS SOMEONE WHO SEEMS TO BE VAGRANT OR THEY SEEM OUT OF PLACE ON THE TRAIL"
- "I had a really bad experience on the trail when I was 6 months pregnant where I was followed by a homeless man. It was VERY frightening. I had to run for help"
- "Only two things affect my feeling of safety on the trail...speeding bikers who don't have the courtesy to let you know they are there; people used to announce/ring their approach and indicate they were passing on the left (someone is going to be hurt!) and the occasional bag person...that is everywhere and I don't know what you specifically do about that"
- "I've never seen any police or other patrol on any of my bike rides. The one time I did ride by myself, I got stuck in a rain storm and had no shelter. I fear riding by myself and have joined a local bike bike club to have others to ride with. Also, the one crossing near Woodward is unsafe due to the curve in the road. Cars go too fast there so flashing lights would be nice to alert them to bikers"
- "Oh boy! Pray for God's children using the trail"
- "my only real concern is that some dog owners have very long leashes, and don't pay attention when people on bikes are passing, even when they announce/ring that they are passing"
- "There are far too many people walking dogs off leash that are not under control. Also sight lines at many road crossings are blocked by vegetation, making it difficult to see cars coming. The Silverbell crossing needs to be leveled and cleared of sand and gravel so that more controlled stops can be made on bikes. Also just lately we are again having problems with kids blocking the trail with tree limbs, which is annoying and potentially hazardous"
- "Police patrol 6am-10pm daily – too many trail incidents w/women. Not safe enough to go out alone day or night and hard to get a friend to join at same schedules. If we bike at night can we coordinate a patrol officer to go with us or be posted near highest incident rates orion/gallagher rds to Tienken?"
- "Speeding bikes are an issue as are "weirdo's"
- "Trail Staff is fantastic!"
- "I won't walk the trail alone, I wish I felt more safe on it alone, but I don't. I will only walk it with my dog"
- "Maybe emergency phones"
- "Near Kern/Clarkston crossing gas partying kids"



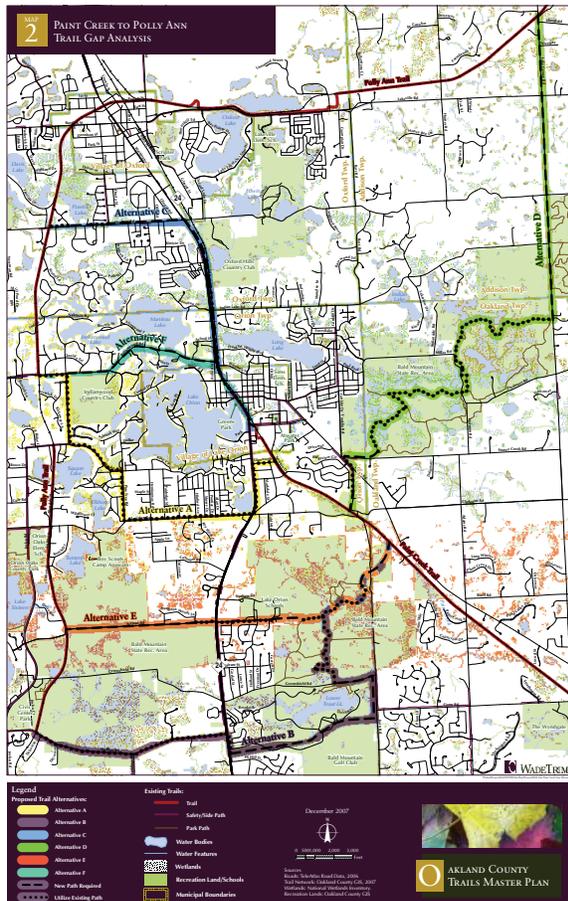
## PAINT CREEK & POLLY ANN TRAILS GAP

### INITIAL EVALUATION

Six routes were initially evaluated and discussed with the local stakeholder group (see adjacent graphic). These included:

- A route (depicted in yellow) that utilizes existing safety path from the Paint Creek Trail to Glanworth, M-24, along Clarkston Road, Pine Tree Road, Heights, and Joslyn Roads.
- A route (depicted in purple) that would traverse along existing unpaved trails in Bald Mountain State Recreation Area, to Greenshield Road, within the utility corridor, and along Waldon Road.
- A route (depicted in blue) that would traverse from the Paint Creek Trail, north along M-24 to Drahnert Road and connect into the Polly Ann Trail.
- A route (depicted in green) traversing to the north from the Paint Creek Trail, Conklin Road, along existing unpaved trails within Bald Mountain State Recreation Area, to Lake George Road.
- A route (depicted in orange) that would lead from the Paint Creek Trail, utilize existing unpaved trails within Bald Mountain State Recreation Area, along the Lake Orion Schools property, and along Scripps Road.
- A route (depicted in teal) traversing to the north along M-24 and west along Indianwood Road.

Based on discussions with the local stakeholder group, several of the potential connector routes were modified and/or eliminated for designation as “primary” connectors due to feasibility and/or need.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of the initial evaluation and stakeholder input, four routes are proposed as primary connector routes between the existing Paint Creek and Polly Ann Trails. Each of these routes (identified as either the Purple Route, Blue Route, Yellow Route, or Green Route on the following fold out map) has various opportunities and constraints associated with implementation as is further described below. See Chapter 5, Action Plan, for suggested next steps and timeline associated with this gap.

### **Purple Route –**

#### **Approximate Length: 6.00 mi**

This route would traverse to the south, within and/or near Bald Mountain State Recreation Area, along Kern Road, Clear Creek Drive and utilize the existing safety path along Waldon Road.

### **Yellow Route –**

#### **Approximate Length: 4.33 mi**

This route utilizes existing safety path from the Paint Creek Trail to Glanworth, M-24, along Clarkston Road, Pine Tree Road, Heights, and Joslyn Roads.

### **Blue Route –**

#### **Approximate Length: 3.65 mi**

This route would traverse from the Paint Creek Trail, north along M-24 to Drahner Road and connect into the Polly Ann Trail.

### **Green Route –**

#### **Approximate Length: 6.81**

This route would traverse to the north from the Paint Creek Trail, along Orion Road and Clarkston Road, within Marshview Park, along

Bald Mountain State Recreation Area utilizing Stoney Creek, Harmon and Predmore Roads, to Lake George Road.

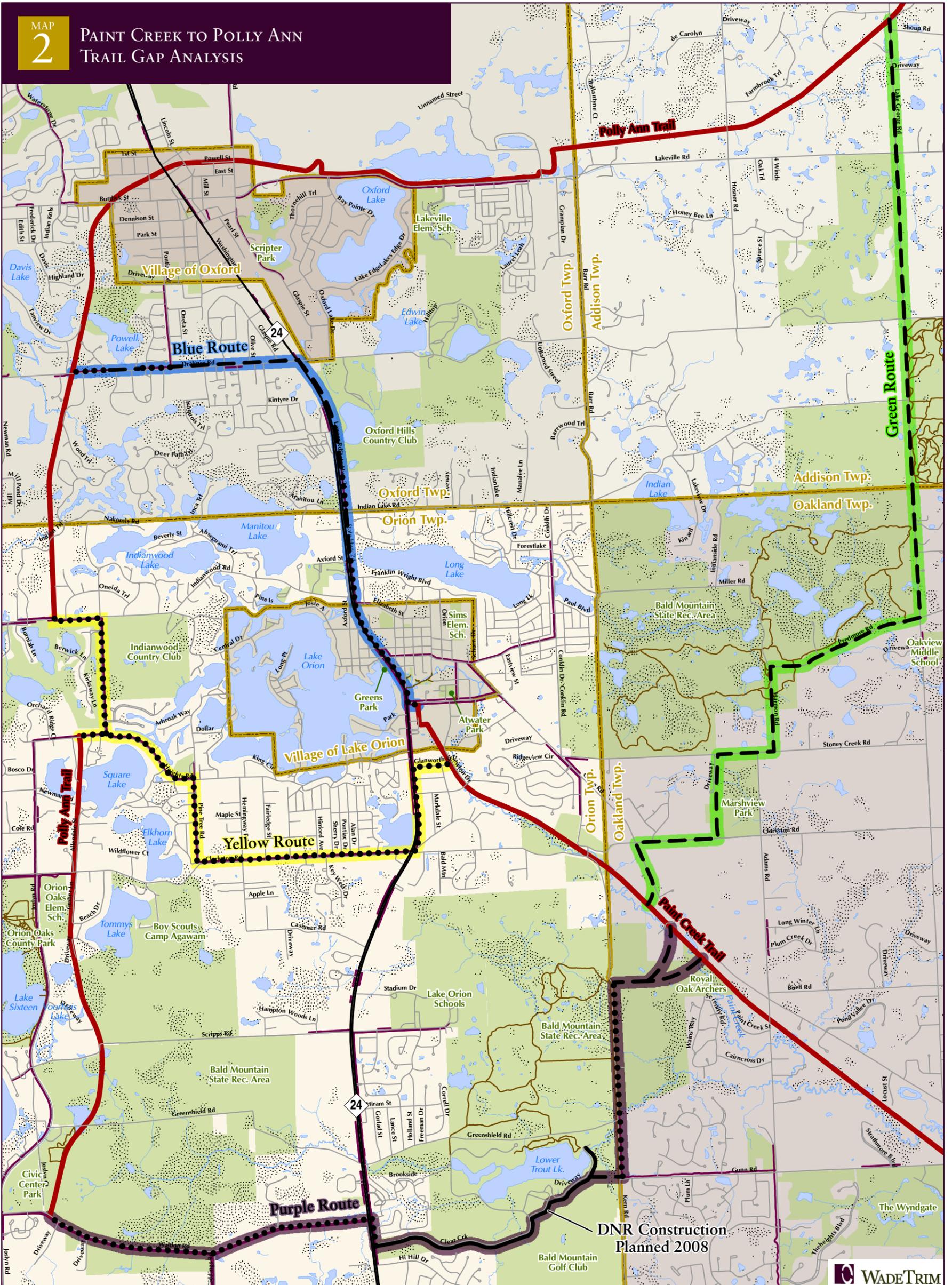
Opportunities and constraints associated with implementation of each Route have been documented as a tool for stakeholder agencies to consider, address and/or resolve as movement toward implementation continues. It is highly likely that progress on each of the routes will be worked on simultaneously as the various agencies proceed with implementation efforts.

### **Purple Route Opportunities and Constraints**

- This route would take users along and through a portion of Bald Mountain State Recreation Area, providing a natural setting and experience.
- The MDNR is planning to construct a significant section of this route in 2008 between M-24 and Kern Road along the primary entrance to the Recreation Area providing the trail user with a route with few vehicular conflicts.
- Safety path is already constructed along the length of Waldon Road between M-24 and the Paint Creek Trail.
- This route would take trail users to the Orion Township offices and Civic Center Park complex, as well as Orion Oaks Elementary and Orion Oaks County Park.
- Continued discussions and/or negotiations are needed with the Royal Oak Archers and other private land owners to provide a connection to the Paint Creek Trail from Kern Road. This segment may include the need to cross the Paint Creek, adding potential design and construction challenges and costs.

MAP 2

PAINT CREEK TO POLLY ANN TRAIL GAP ANALYSIS



**Legend**

**Proposed Trail Routes:**

- Yellow Route
- Purple Route
- Blue Route
- Green Route
- New Path Required
- Utilize Existing Path
- Path to be Constructed in 2008 (MDNR)

**Existing Trails:**

- Trail
- Safety/Side Path
- Park Path

**Water Bodies**

- Water Bodies
- Water Features

**Wetlands**

- Wetlands

**Recreation Land/Schools**

- Recreation Land/Schools

**Municipal Boundaries**

- Municipal Boundaries

September 2008



Sources  
 Roads: TeleAtlas Road Data, 2006  
 Trail Network: Oakland County GIS, 2008  
 Wetlands: National Wetlands Inventory  
 Recreation Lands: Oakland County GIS, 2008

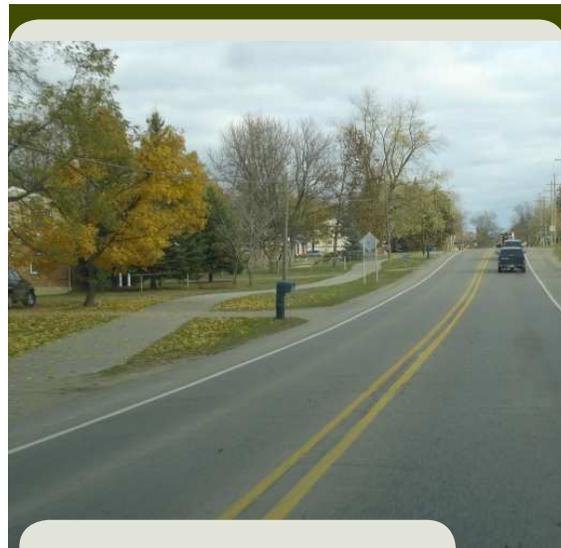


**AKLAND COUNTY TRAILS MASTER PLAN**

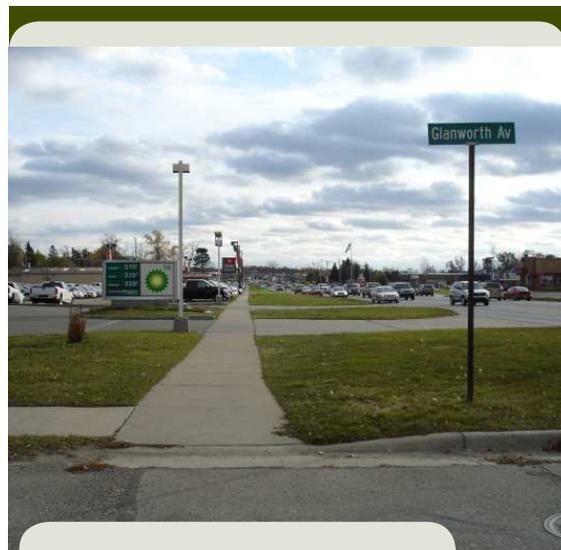
- The proposed route is lengthy and may seem/feel “out of the way” to trail users.
- Coordination and cooperation with the MDNR will be necessary. Issues may also arise regarding the various number of different user groups and needs within Bald Mountain State Recreation Area.
- The former railroad corridor south of Heights Road in Orion Township (Polly Ann Trail Extension) is owned by the Township, however, much of it remains an unimproved surface. Improvements to this corridor would need to be made in order to make this route a viable connection.
- Several “turns” would be required by the user, making the need for wayfinding and directional signs to ensure users can find their way between the Polly Ann and Paint Creek Trails.
- The remote segments of the trail may provide access challenges for police and emergency services.

**Yellow Route Opportunities and Constraints**

- The route follows sidewalk and safety path that is already constructed. With the exception of narrow sidewalks along Glanworth, the remainder of the route would utilize 8’ wide safety path.
- This route is already useable. With signage, mapping, a short trail segment between Glanworth and the Paint Creek Trail, and minor road crossing treatment improvements, this route could be a desirable and heavily used connection.



**YELLOW ROUTE**  
*An 8’ wide Safety Path system is already constructed along the proposed route.*



**YELLOW ROUTE**  
*M-24 between Glanworth and Clarkston Road would be utilized.*

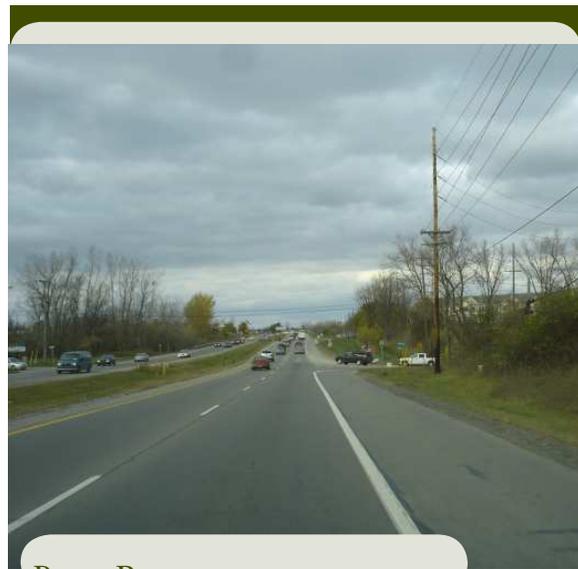
- The route length is relatively short and direct in comparison to the other alternatives.
- The road crossings are relatively safe and minor in terms of traffic volumes, speeds,

and crossing distance. The M-24 crossing at Clarkston Road is signalized with pedestrian push buttons and a median for refuge.

- The route passes through primarily residential areas and affords residents direct access to existing trails.
- Signage is necessary to indicate to users the direction, short distance, and opportunities available in nearby downtown Lake Orion.
- The route includes the need to cross multiple residential driveways, requiring the user to remain aware of vehicular traffic movements.
- A short connector segment is required between the existing Paint Creek Trail and the walkway along Glanworth Street.
- Several “turns” would be required by the user, making the need for wayfinding and directional signs to ensure users can find their way between the Polly Ann and Paint Creek Trails.
- Some horizontal and vertical alignment changes would be desirable to enhance bicycle travel.

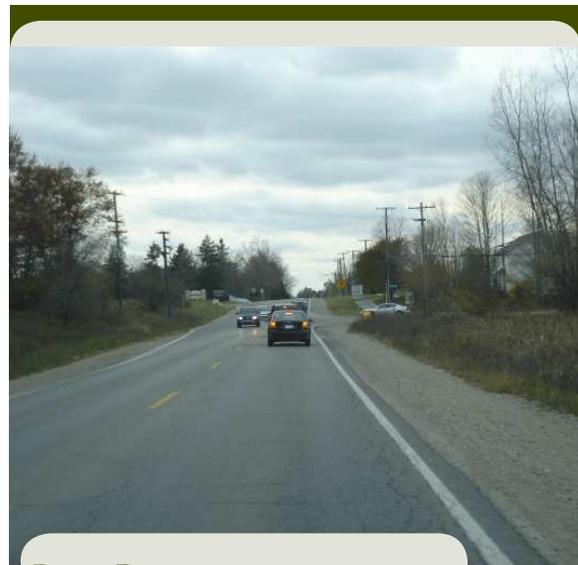
#### **Blue Route Opportunities and Constraints**

- This route would bring the trail users adjacent to downtown Lake Orion and along M-24, supporting economic activity in the area and providing access to amenities for trail users.
- This route would continue to generally follow the historic rail alignment where it remains intact.



#### **BLUE ROUTE**

*M-24 right-of-way heading north toward Drahner Road.*



#### **BLUE ROUTE**

*Drahner Road right-of-way near Pontiac Road.*

- Sections of sidewalk and safety path are in place along M-24 and Drahner Road.

- Major road crossings are limited to the intersection of M-24 and Drahner (if the route remains on the east side of M-24).
- Once the route reaches Drahner Road, the opportunity may exist for users to also utilize Oxford Lake Drive and Lake Edge Drive to access the Polly Ann Trail.
- This route follows M-24 for several miles. In the majority of areas, M-24 is commercial in nature with multiple curb cuts requiring the trail user to remain alert to heavy vehicular turning movements, and likely “starting and stopping” due to vehicular activity.
- In some areas along M-24, the right-of-way width does not provide for significant space for a trail/safety path and therefore the users are placed in close proximity to the road.
- M-24 is a 4-lane divided highway with additional turning lanes throughout. M-24 carries high volumes of high speed traffic adding to noise, safety, and “user experience” concerns.
- The water body at the Oxford Hills Country Club is in close proximity to M-24 with the edge of the right-of-way sloping down toward the water. This area may require the design and construction of a structure such as a bridge or boardwalk, adding to the overall cost of implementation.
- The intersection of M-24 and Drahner, where the connector route would potentially cross, is signalized and includes pedestrian push buttons and crosswalk markings. However, this intersection is a particularly dangerous crossing due to the skewed angle

of the intersecting roads. This increases the distance trail users must cross, adding to their exposure to high-speed, high-volume traffic.

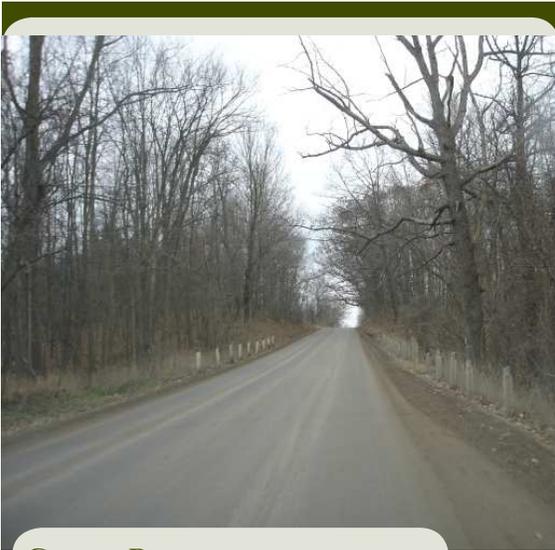
- Drahner Road is a two-lane paved road with gravel shoulders. Open swales provide drainage along sections of the roadway. To construct a trail connection within the right-of-way, swales may need to be replaced with enclosed storm sewers, adding to the design and construction costs.
- Oxford Township has put considerable effort into constructing safety path along Drahner Road, however, property ownership/easement issues must be resolved in order to complete this section of the Blue Route.

#### **Green Route Opportunities and Constraints**

- This route would take users through Oakland Township parkland, along the Bald Mountain State Recreation Area, and Addison Oaks County Park, providing a natural setting and experience as well as access to multiple destinations.
- The proposed route would not include many road crossings. Those roads that would be crossed are relatively low traffic, low speed, and rural in nature.
- The proposed route is lengthy and may feel like going “out of the way” to trail users.
- Coordination and cooperation with the MDNR will be necessary. Issues may also arise regarding the various user groups and needs.

## Appendix - 6

- Lake George Road is a two-lane (paved and gravel) road with extensive, mature vegetation along the roadway edge in the majority of areas. Steep slopes at the road edge also exist in areas. This would likely add to the design and construction costs associated with implementation. The Road Commission for Oakland County has designated Lake George Road to have a 120' planned right-of-way.



### GREEN ROUTE

*Lake George Road right-of-way.*

- Several “turns” would be required by the user, making the need for extensive wayfinding and directional signs to ensure users can find their way between the Polly Ann and Paint Creek Trails.

## Paint Creek Trailways Commission Minutes of Recreation Master Plan Public Hearing

Tuesday, October 21, 2008

The Public Hearing on the 2009-2013 Draft Recreation Master Plan was called to order by ViceChairman David Becker at 7:35p.m. The following Commission members were present:

Voting Members Present: Dave Becker, Paul Miller, Richard Schultz, Maryann Whitman, Ravi Yalamanchi, Alice Young

Voting Alternates Present: Edward Peters, Ron Stewart, Kathy Thomas, Michael Webber

Non-Voting Alternates Present: None

Non-Voting Members Present: Lois Golden

Others Present: John Makris, Attorney, Kristen Myers, Trail Manager

The Public Hearing was scheduled and publicly advertised in The Oakland Press on October 12, 2008. Draft copies of the Master Plan were available for printing and review on the Paint Creek Trail website on September 20, 2008. Additionally, a Master Plan Revision Meeting schedule, which included the date of the Public Hearing, was published in the Rochester Eccentric on July 10, 2008 and the Lake Orion Review on July 9, 2008.

**PUBLIC HEARING – 2009-2013 Draft Recreation Master Plan:** Vice-Chairman Becker opened the public hearing at 7:35 p.m. Hearing no public comment, the public hearing was closed at 7:36 p.m. Ms. Myers was acknowledged by the Commission for the great job on the new Master Plan. The document will be approved at the November meeting, and a copy will be forwarded to the members in two weeks for final review prior to the next meeting. Draft copies should be available for review at each community and the libraries, and is available on the website. Commissioners should let Ms. Myers know what format they would like their copies in.